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Ceremonies, Parades

Victory Day Celebration Held at Kremlin 8 May

Yeltsin Addresses Ceremony

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[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the Victory Day anniversary celebration at the Kremlin—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed veterans, glorious soldiers of the great victory, esteemed foreign guests, dear Russians! I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on the 50th anniversary of the great victory. Half a century.... [interrupted by applause] Half a century has passed since the day when the tired but happy soldier wiped the gunpowder smoke of the last and most difficult battle from his face. He had stood his ground in a terrible, long war; he had reached Berlin, and he had survived. The whole world applauded him, admiring an unprecedented feat of arms. His home awaited him—loved ones, relations, the motherland that he had saved. The world, Russia, and life all awaited him. The war had ended, and victory was there. There are victorious soldiers today in this hall. All the living and future generations of Russians bow low before you. Glory to you! [applause]

The victory in the Great Patriotic War will always be for us a symbol of the courage, patriotism, and self-sacrifice of the soldier and general, seaman and airman, the worker of the rear and the partisan, the member of the underground and the nurse of the front-line hospital.

Sacred is the memory of those days and years, of the generation of the frontline soldiers. It is a memory common to the fraternal peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is also shared with us by the peoples of all countries that fell under the boot of the fascist occupation.

We stood fast to the death in that war. Even in the most terrible dream, one could not imagine what happened—especially in the first and most difficult period of the war.

Minsk fell on the sixth day. In a month, the enemy was already outside Leningrad and Smolensk; in three months, the enemy was outside Moscow. By that time, we had already lost about 3 million in captives alone.

More than 11 million people had been put out of action in the Armed Forces in the first year-and-a-half of the war. Therefore, it became necessary to set up a practically new army. The enemy had captured a tremendous amount of territory in which a third of the industrial output of the country had been produced before the war and where the main food resources were located. However, the enemy did not manage to do the main thing—to break the spirit of the people, to crush their will. Nobody who has come sword in hand to Russia has managed to do this, and they never will! [applause]

The road to victory turned out to be a long and difficult one, and it started at the walls of Moscow. There is nowhere to retreat, Moscow is behind us: This was the cry that threw the Panfilov heroes and the cavalry of Generals Dovator and Belov, the Home Guard, and the soldiers of the Siberian division into battle against the enemy. It was the first time that Hitler's army had suffered such a great defeat. The plan for a blitzkrieg had fallen through completely.

After the battle for Moscow, there was Stalingrad. On the banks of the Volga, the enemy lost its crack troops. Germany's war machine and the whole Third Reich were rocked to their foundations. This unprecedented heroic deed of our soldiers went down in history. How can one describe its power, its greatness?

These are the words of a war correspondent: The complete hell of the German Air Force was above people's heads. An iron wind blew in their faces, but they still moved forward. A feeling of superstitious fear once again gripped the enemy. Was it people that were attacking? Were they mortal? Yes, they were simple mortals. only a few survived, but they did what they had to do.

The next crushing blow was dealt at the fiery bulge of Orel- Kursk. The Hitlerite leadership lost its strategic initiative for good. Difficult and exhausting struggle lay ahead, but the outcome of the war had been predetermined. Having cleared the occupied territories of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltics, and Moldova of the enemy, the Soviet troops liberated Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and took Berlin. Our soldiers had to cover almost 3,000 km from the Volga to Berlin. The emotional meeting of the allied troops on the Elba signified a defeat of the Hitlerite adventure and of fascism. May 1945 was one of the most significant milestones in the century-old Russian history and of the history of Europe and the world. The outcome of the war and the destiny of mankind were decided on the Soviet-German front but we in Russia do not divide that war up into ours and other people's, into the Great Patriotic War and World War II, into the War in Europe, the War in Asia and North Africa.

The fiery breath of the world conflagration scorched more than 60 countries, hundreds of millions of people were plunged into an abyss of grief and misery. Ours was a common disaster, ours was a common joy, a common victory, really one victory for all.

It is difficult to express in words the suffering of humanity in the name of its salvation. The loss of our people is huge. Now, after thoroughly learning of the war documents, one can name a terrifying figure. During the war we lost 26,549,000 people — soldiers, officers, and civilians killed and who died of wounds and starvation. The price for the victory is unbelievable. These are the latest precise data. We do not consider them final yet. The work is being continued, and it will certainly be completed. This is our sacred duty to those killed and alive.

Let us remember those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the victory, let us remember those who were killed at the fronts, your comrades-in-arm, dear veterans. Let us remember those who were killed under bombs, and burned in the stoves of the concentration camps and tortured in captivity. Let us remember those who died as a result of starvation, disease, deprivation, and crimes of the punishers. All of them died so that we could live and could gather after 50 years at the victory jubilee. Let us remember them. I ask your to stand for a minute's silence to honor the memory of the fallen.

Every generation will go back, time and again, to the heroic and tragic pages of the past, and will pay tribute to the heroic deed of those who conquered fascism. Without belittling anyone's role, be it the supreme commander or an ordinary soldier, one must state firmly and unequivocally that it is the people who were the true builders and heroes of the victory.

The common threat united the entire society. The country lived with one thought: to defend the native land, to destroy the aggressor. This was truly the Great Patriotic War. It was great in the succession of wars which our people had been forced to fight in order to save the motherland, to save Russia. The heroism of the people created heroes on the battlefield, created people's commanders. The fist among them is Georgiy Konstantinovich Zhukov, the Victory Marshal.

Our troops were led to the victory by Aleksey Innokentyevich Antonov, Ivan Khristoforovich Bagramyan, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Vasilevskiy, Nikolay Fedorovich Batutin, Leonid Aleksandrovich Govorov, Andrey Ivanovich Yeremenko, Ivan Stepanovich Konev, Nikolay Gerasimovich Kuznetsov, Radion Yakovlevich Malinovskiy, Kirill Afanasyevich Meretskov, Konstantin Konstantinovich Rokossovskiy, Vasiliy Danilovich Sokolovskiy, Semen Konstantinovich Timoshenko, Fedor Ivanovich Tolbukhin, Vladimir Filippovich Tributs, Ivan Danilovich Chernyakhovskiy, Boris Mikhaylovich Shaposhnikov, and many others.

Among them were commanders exprienced in previous wars, those who had survived the Stalin repression, as well as young commanders. But they were all united by the ardent desire to serve their motherland and their people; 11,633 of them were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, 1,794 of them were recipients of one or other of the three classes of the Order of Glory.

These are just figures, but they reflect unheard of heroism, the selflessness of millions and millions of people. We must remember them all. They were defending the motherland — that is the simple secret of our victory. The enemy was vanquished not only on the battlefield. Victory was forged on the homefront in a self-sacrificing struggle to produce metal, coal, bread, fuel, raw materials. How can one not mention today the women, old people, and children who worked day and night at the factory bench and worked indefatigably in the fields? How can one not mention the talented organizers of the military industry?

The muses were not silenced by the thunder of guns. The greatest humanist works of art were created during the war years. We pay our respects to the scientists, writers, and artists — to all our intlligentsia. Their heroic work helped the country to survive during the difficult times, and it inspired them to victory.

The patriotic voice of the church was heard loudly during the war years. It did much to repulse the aggressor.

Our respects to the widows of the war. They bore their heavy burdens for many years and they brought up sons and daughters worthy of their dead fathers for the fatherland. [applause]

We won this war together with our allies. The contribution made by Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, and de Gaulle to the creation of the anti-Hitler coalition was great. Our military cooperation began to take shape by summer 1941. It was then that the allies started to provide great material and technical assistance to the Red Army. This assistance was stepped up during the war. The allies' combat contribution to the common cause of ensuring victory was also stepped up. Arctic Convoys brought the goods which our country badly needed to Murmansk and Severodvinsk. Together with Soviet seamen, they heroically repelled offensives by the German fleet. Mankind will always remember the Midway battle, the El Alamein battle, the capture of Iwo Jima.

The main Allied contribution to the victory over fascism was the Normandy landing and the opening of the second front in Europe in June 1944.

The feat of the Yugoslav peoples, who heroically fought their occupiers for four years, will always live in our hearts. We admire the soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army who opposed Japanese aggression. Members of the resistance movements in France and other European countries made a major contribution to the victory. We remember those who took part in the uprisings in Warsaw and Prague, the fighters in the national uprising in Slovakia and the wars of liberation in Greece. We pay great homage to German and Italian antifascists. On behalf of the Russian people I would like to express deep gratitude to the peoples of the states which fought fascism together with us. Honor and praise to the fighting union of nations. [applause]

Our soldiers returned home believing that the blood of the dead had not been shed in vain. They started working in peace to restore what had been destroyed by the war. But many of them were sometimes disturbed by the thought: was peaceful life taking the right shape? Was it the kind of life that people had imagined while fighting in the front? Repressions continued in the country and the Stalin regime was becoming increasingly cruel. Let us remember those who suffered the bitter fate of captivity in Hitlerite camps. Only a third of prisoners returned from fascist gaols and then nearly half of them had to experience all the torments of the Stalin gulag. It is only now that these people's rights have been fully restored.

And yet another thing. I know that to this day many hopes of the veterans remain but hopes. It is painful to think that, as a rule, care about you dies down after big anniversaries.

I would also like to mention another thing here. It is bad that the modern Soviet generation cannot find a common language with the war generations. Veterans can and should be wise advisors and helpers in transformations which bring democracy and economic well-being to our people. The events of that war are moving further and further away from us but time has no power over them. A great deal of work is under way in Russia to register the names of those who died for their homeland in books of remembrance. We need to know the full truth about the war, the truth which is both heroic and bitter. It is not only those who fought in the war who need it but all those for whom the war is a remote history. Scientists should clarify all issues which are still unclear. Conditions for this exist in Russia. Many archives have been opened to the public and obstacles on the way of establishing the truth have been removed. There are no more barriers hindering cooperation between Russian historians and their colleagues abroad. All this is very important because we know far from everything about the war and its causes.

I would like to put the following request to you, dear veterans: All of you who can, please, write down your reminiscences about the days of the war, leave us your diaries. All this will be a precious part of our national heritage. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren have a particular need in this. Let the glory of our nation be engraved in centuries. They say that nobody learns the lessons of history and that every new generation is doomed to repeat the sad experience of previous ones. But fascism, the plague of the 20th century, should never be allowed to re-emerge. [applause]

Again and again we focus on the Germany of the early Thirties, when the country was going through a terrible economic and moral crisis. It is not surprising that German society produced some unscrupulous politicians offering simple explanations for the hardship the Germans were suffering, and even more primitive ways of eliminating it. Unfortunately, Nazi ideas became widespread. Fascism, by applying social demagoguery and instilling racial prejudice, anti-Semitism, and the base cult of force, corrupted people's minds and consciences. It is well-known what all this led to. Many in Russia and beyond its borders are now wondering why, half a century after the collapse of fascism, immunity to fascist and racist ideas in our society has weakened.

Moreover, some people are trying to sow the poisonous seeds in the minds of the young generation. All over the world fascists started with promises to protect the humiliated and insulted and to raise the people from their knees, but having come to power they threw their own and other peoples into the grinder of repressions and wars. The end has always been the same — a national catastrophe. We must purge Russia of the fascist plague, completely and for ever. And I am sure this will happen. Our duty to and memory of those who died in the great war calls for this. [applause]

Dear friends, unfortunately shortly after the end of the war, the world was divided by the iron curtain. Trust and mutual understanding were lost. The coldness of mutual fear for long years bound states and peoples. It was only with the beginning of fundamental political transformations and economic reforms in Russia and Eastern Europe that the conditions were formed which enabled the results of the war to be finally dealt with. Germans, who had suffered from the disease of fascism, found the strength to purge themselves by repentance and the democratization of their lives.

Russia, in accordance with the accords, withdrew its troops from Europe. All of this enabled our people to reach a historic reconciliation. I consider this a great achievement.

It is important today as never before for state leaders to take account of the lessons of international politics in the 20th century. Discrimination and closed mentalities have sooner or later exploded in wars or have led to balancing on the edge of the nuclear abyss. The strongest base for peace in the 21st century is equal and wide-ranging partnership and cooperation. The establishment and strengthening of new interstate relations depend on many circumstances, not least on the way in which the political legacy of the Cold War is overcome. For it is clear that the military and political mechanisms created in previous conditions and for specific ends will not solve today's problems.

The world and Europe need other models of security. They must be based on trust and equal cooperation, not on political opposition and confrontation. Without joint efforts and wide-ranging international cooperation mankind cannot solve its present tasks.

We have one Earth and one sky. I know the soldiers of victory living in Russia and other countries will agree that they won peace for all mankind, they won with a great desire to bring us all closer to an era without wars. I believe it is within our power to do this, to do everything to stop the priceless flame of reason on Earth from going out. [applause]

The Russians do not have a more endearing holiday than the Great Victory Day. Its beginnings go far back into the depth of centuries which were full of struggle for independence, times when titanic forces awakened in the country. These forces also came to the fore in the Patriotic War of 1941-1945. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the great victory at a trying time for Russia. The transition to a democratic, civilized life has turned out to be difficult. But I am sure that, just like 50 years ago, patriotism and confidence in their strength will help our people overcome all difficulties. We can only do this together. Our unity and accord is capable of turning Russia into a prosperous state. I believe that with the dawning of a new century, we shall see economic prosperity in our country, and Russia will enter a new silver age of culture. This will become the best monument to the victorious soldier.

Every spring, life awakens anew. No matter how long and cold the winter, the sun will shine through. These days as well as 50 years ago trees are growing green in Moscow, children are smiling, and the evening salute is the exclamation mark to this celebration of the victory, spring, and life. We owe all this to you, victors in the Great Patriotic War. Glory to the people who have won the great victory! Congratulations on the occasion of the holiday, dear Russians and esteemed guests. [applause]

Aleksiy II Calls for Unity

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[Speech by Aleksiy II, patriarch of Russia, at Victory Day celebration in the Kremlin in Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your excellency, respected leaders of the Russian state, of the countries of the former Soviet Union and abroad, respected veterans of the Great Patriotic War, dear brothers and sisters, friends: At an international peace forum about 20 years ago, Konstantin Mikhailovich Simonov [Soviet writer whose work included books on World War II] asked: Do we need to write about the war decades on? And he answered, yes. We need to so that the new generation does not forget the war years and can draw lessons from them. In remembering the Great Patriotic War and in paying my dues to the memory and glory of its fighters, I have remembered these words from our writer.

What lesson does the war teach us, we who are living in such a difficult and stormy time? Everyone will probably answer this question in his own way. I am completely convinced that those years taught us the lesson of unity, the lesson of mutual understanding, and the lesson of sacrificial love, for which neither ethnic nor political, neither narrowly nationalistic nor personal squabbles, insults or ambitions existed. [applause]

We suffered a common misfortune and had a common hope, a common sorrow, and a common joy in victory. And my heart is now warmed because this sorrow and this joy have again united us during the anniversary days, above squabbles, in peace. Veterans have been united from countries which were once part of the Soviet Union and representatives of many peoples who were our comrades-in-arms on the fields of World War II. Let us not forget this holy moment of unity tomorrow. [applause]

May God help us to renew mutual relations between the peoples of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States who are attempting to overcome the bitter fruits of recent history, are forgiving one another, and are helping one another in everything. [applause] Let the bonds unfailingly link the peoples of Europe and the world who together overcame the terrible danger of Nazism. Let the soil for the pernicious shoots of fascism and aggressive nationalism — which is alarming us again today — never be found again anywhere.

I will end with the words of the biblical prophet. Even out, even out the road. Clear the stones out of the way. Raise the banner for the people. Have a good holiday, dear veterans, respected state leaders, current and future soldiers, all those taking part in these celebrations. Peace be with you, prosperity and God's help in all your work for the good of our great fatherland, for the good of our great homeland. [applause]

Grachev Pays Tribute to Marshal Zhukov 8 May

LD0805121095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0817 GMT 8 May 95

[Speech by Army General Pavel Grachev, federal minister of defense, at the ceremony of unveiling a monument to Army General Georgiy Zhukov on Manezh Square in Moscow — live; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Very esteemed president of the Russian Federation and supreme commander in chief, dear veterans of the Great Fatherland War, esteemed Muscovites, and guests of the capital.

In the constellation of World War II generals, Marshal Zhukov is undoubtedly the brightest star. He is a four-time war hero and a marshal of the Soviet Union, who holds a range of victory orders. He occupied the highest and crucial posts in the strategic command. He was a chief of staff, one of the chief commanders, and deputy supreme commander in chief. He was in charge of the reserve troops, as well as the Leningrad, Western, First Ukrainian, and First Belorussian Fronts operating in decisive directions in the war between the Soviet Union and Germany.

As a chief commander, Zhukov coordinated the actions of a group of fronts during major strategic operations involving both defense and offensives. As everyone knows, on behalf of the supreme commander in chief's staff, and along with representatives of the Soviet Union's troops, he accepted the unconditional capitulation of the armed forces of the defeated fascist Germany.

Today is the day when history has ruled justice at last, as we are unveiling a monument to the legendary general — a monument which has become a matter of honor for People's Artist Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Klykov.

The destiny of this monument, just like the fate of the marshal himself is by no means unequivocal. Back in 1987 the leadership of the Soviet Union adopted a decision to erect a monument to Zhukov in Moscow. But years went by, the country ended its celebration of the 45th anniversary of the victory, but the plans remained on paper. In the last few years, the people's money was used to erect many monuments to and statues of the victorious marshal, as Zhukov is rightfully described. In various parts of the country — in Strelkovka where Zhukov was born, in Staryy Oskol in Belgorod Region, in the ancient town of Uralsk and Nizhniy Novgorod — the general has been immortalized in bronze. Now at last, it is Moscow's turn to pay tribute to this faithful son of Russia, whose name is for ever linked with the triumph of martial glory, the valor and the bravery of a man who vowed allegiance to his homeland. The life journey and the feats of arms of people such as Zhukov arouse in one a sense of national pride in our great power. Let us recall one page in the annals of the Great Fatherland War: It is fall, 1941. The enemy is mounting a broad-scale offensive, with a view to conquering Moscow. Troops of the [German] "Tsentr" group have torn through our defences, surrounded some considerable forces of the Western and Reserve Fronts in the area of Vyazma. The path to Moscow has been effectively opened for the fascists.

On 5 October 1941, Zhukov was urgently recalled from Leningrad to defend Moscow. The fascists were not only stopped on the approaches to the capital but our troops also began a powerful counter- offensive. The blitzkrieg of the Hitlerite command was totally defeated. It is deeply symbolic that the monument to Zhukov has been put up in Moscow — in a hero city which refused to be subjugated by fascist regiments, in a city whose emblem shows St. George the Triumphant, a personification the staunch spirit and the military glory of Russian servicemen.

Unveiling this monument we believe that living flowers will always lie at the foot of the monument. Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Yeltsin Speaks at 9 May Victory Day Parade

LD0905070395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0510 GMT 9 May 95

[Address by President Boris Yeltsin at a parade to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Red Square, Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear veterans, front-line soldiers, citizens of Russia; esteemed guests: Today, on the half-century anniversary of the great victory, Red Square once again welcomes the victors. Above it once again flies the proud banner of victory, the banners of fronts, fleets, units, and subunits, under which the enemy was defeated and victory was achieved in the faraway and unforgettable year of 1945. Once again the front-line soldiers are forming festive ranks. The infantryman and the tank crew member, the pilot and the sailor, the artillery man and the partisan, privates and sergeant majors, officers and generals, soldiers of the great victory are standing side by side in these parade columns. Among them are those who, 50 years ago, in June 1945, took part in the victorious march here.

From here, from Red Square, on 7 November 1941 our grandfathers, fathers, and brothers went to the front line to defend the capital and Russia's independence. Here, at the foot of the ancient Kremlin, in the victorious year of 1945, soldiers of the Red Army threw the standards of the defeated Nazi regime.

Hitler's delirious designs envisaged enslaving our people and destroying our country, flooding Moscow and sending its inhabitants to concentration camps.

The villain's ashes are scattered, and Moscow and Russia remain and will continue to remain for centuries. Cities of the European states have risen from the ruins. The Slav and other peoples of the world were not enslaved. Archives, however, retain the evidence of sinister plans. The extinguished furnaces of Auschwitz, Maidanek, and other factories of death will not let us forget the bloody crimes of the Nazi leaders. We remember what an unprecedented price we had to pay to keep the world from falling into the abyss of fascism. We remember the thunder of battles and the death behests of the fallen. We remember the tears of mothers, widows, and orphaned children. We remember the terrible years of war, the nights of the blockade, and exhausting hard work on the home front.

We also remember, however, the joyful soldiers at the Reichstag, the handshakes on the river Elbe, and the joy of the liberated world. This memory is sacred. The common tragedy brought people together, united them for the defense of the Fatherland. Let the memory of this war become a unifying force now.

I appeal to the Russian people, to people of other states, to you, dear veterans. We should not allow poisonous seeds of fascism to germinate in Russia and will not let it happen.

During that time of trial, mankind gained invaluable experience of unity in the face of a deadly threat. At that time it succeeded in overcoming disagreements and grudges. In the most critical period the leaders of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain showed courage and wisdom. Battling France and other states came out in alliance with these powers. Who knows how many lives were saved by the establishment of an anti-Hitler coalition, by pooling our efforts in the name of a common cause? Europe's best sons and daughters fought for liberation side by side, as part of the great resistance movement.

For half a century since the end of the war Russia and Germany have been living in peace. The Russian and the German peoples have lived through many experiences and have drawn their lessons from the past.

The era of the Cold War is now behind us — the Cold War, which could at any time have degenerated into a nuclear war. A fatefully dangerous confrontation between the great world powers has been eliminated. We are are sincerely pleased to see here in Moscow delegations from CIS states, the leaders of Western and Eastern countries. We welcome the secretary general of the United Nations. You are here, esteemed guests, and this means we are united — not just in our hatred of fascism. We are united in our desire to save the future generations, to deliver them from the calamities of war.

Veterans from all the CIS are with us. Their heroic actions in the name of a common victory are forging our kinship today. Thank you.

We are all together today, on this sacred holiday. This is a good sign. Let today become a day of remembrance of the fallen, a day for uniting the forces of good, a day for condemning fascism in all its manifestations, and a day of hope for a stable peace.

The 20th century will end very soon. It will be remembered in history for its outstanding achievements and intellectual excellence. I think, however, that those who say that this was the bloodiest and most vicious century of all are right. Million after million of the best people died in the prime of their lives — million after million. They never had a chance to fulfill their potential, and how much poorer the world and every one of those living today have become as a result of this.

Time is merciless. Many people of the war generation are no longer with us. But their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren are living and will continue to live. This means that our hearts should not grow cold or our memory short. It will retain the bright image of the fallen, the bitterness of defeat, and the joy of victory. Nothing and no one will ever obscure the greatness of the people's heroism, the heroism of the soldier who defeated the inhuman evil.

Glory to the victorious soldier who saved the Fatherland and all the world from fascism. We bow our heads to you, dear veterans. Congratulations, dear friends, on the Great Victory. Hooray.

Military Parade Held on Poklonnaya Hill 9 May

Combat Planes Overfly Moscow

*LD0905093595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0921 GMT 9 May 95*

[By Nikolay Zheleznov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 9 (Itar-Tass) — Muscovites in the centre of the city stood for 15 minutes their heads up watching a unique show when some 50 combat and transport planes, as well as helicopters flew over the capital Tuesday. This was the first show of combat aircraft held over the Russian capital since 1955.

The planes participated in the military parade held on Poklonnaya hill and dedicated to the 50th annivesrary of the VE-day in World War Two. They flew for 12 minutes at a low altitude over the Poklonnaya hill and the residential quarters along the Kutuzov avenue and then roared up over the centre of the city.

The parade, which lasted 45 minutes, involved some 10,000 Russian Army, Interior and Frontier troops, as well as ten types of ground hardware.

This was the first time that the military parade was held not in Red square as the centre of the city is undergoing major reconstruction and it was impossible to house all combat hardware there.

The Poklonnaya hill, translated as the Bowing hill, is the place where Napoleon had waited in vain for Moscow authorities to bow to him and give the keys to the city in 1812. Close to the place the Triumph Arch has been erected symbolising the Russian victory over Napoleon in the 1812 war.

The former Soviet Union boasted a total of 120 military parades which were held on VE-days and on November 7, the Bolshevik revolution day.

The most notable were two parades — on November 7, 1941 when Moscow was besieged by Nazi forces and when the troops marched from the parade directly to the front, and the Victory Parade on June 24, 1945 when flags of defeated Nazi Germany were thown to the feet of former Soviet Communist leader Joseph Stalin who watched the parade from the rostrum of the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square.

The last Soviet military parade was held in 1990 to mark the 45th anniversary of the VE-day.

Grachev Speech at Military Parade

*LD0905093395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian
0810 GMT 9 May 95*

[Speech by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a military parade at Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear veterans of the Great Patriotic War, servicemen of the Army and Navy; esteemed compatriots; esteemed foreign guests: Today the world is celebrating the great victory. Today the world is honoring the memory of all the heroes, alive and dead, who defended our motherland from the fascist invasion. It was our Soviet people and their Armed Forces that half a century ago, on 9 May 1945, triumphantly ended the Great Patriotic War. The decades that have passed enable us to see the full extent of the greatness and historical importance of this event which altered the world and the fate of mankind.

Today we are facing a stage in history when each of us should seriously reflect on historical lessons, on war and peace, on the destinies of various countries, nations, and whole generations of people, on their present and future. Our great victory gave freedom and independence to enslaved peoples, dealt a crushing blow to Nazi ideology, and determined that our civilization's further development should be based on the ideals of humanism and justice. The great victory gave humankind a clear understanding that catastrophes such as a new world war were not fatally inevitable.

The unique experience of the joint struggle of the anti-Hitler coalition is convincing proof that it is always possible to find effective ways of overcoming disagreement and alternatives to dangerous confrontation, that it is always possible to unite to overcome an enemy.

The contribution to victory of many of the planet's peoples is invaluable. We pay homage to the military merits of our allies, the United States, Great Britain, France, Canada, and the other countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. We mark with respect the feats of the fighters of the military formations and partisans of Yugoslavia, the warriors of the Czechoslovak Army, the Polish troops, the patriots of Bulgaria, of Romania, Hungary, Albania, and the members of the resistance movement of the German anti-fascists.

At the same time, we are fully entitled to say that our great people and their Armed Forces played the decisive role in the rout of fascism. Representatives of all the nations and peoples rose to defend the fatherland. The unity of the whole country, love of our native land, the people's loftiest patriotism, the feats of arms of the soldiers and officers, the skillful leadership of the military commanders, and the self-sacrifice of those who toiled in the rear services were the most important factors in the great victory. Now, half a century on, 9 May is for us not only the most sacred and righteous date in the biography of the fatherland, but also a day of spiritual purification and social unity. Despite the attempts of certain forces today to distort historical truth, there is an undeniable truth: the great victory is sacred to us all and is our common glory. It was forged by the whole country.

Victory in the Great Patriotic War is the indivisible property of all the fraternal peoples who displayed the loftiest strength of spirit, courage, and heroism. The peoples of the former union were always brothers and remain so. It was our solidarity that enabled us to hold out during the most cruel trials of the war.

It is our duty to remain a support for one another today, too. That is the demand of our memory, our conscience, our filial duty to those who fell in that war. One of the lessons which the war taught is that only a state which has cohesive faith and united aspirations and which feels for the fatherland can be invincible. May our common victory be a powerful factor in the unification of the whole of Russian society. May Victory Day always be a symbol of our harmony as a nation.

On the day of the great victory it becomes particularly clear that the Armed Forces should only serve the people and their state, whose interests they have a duty to defend by conscience, by law, and under the Constitution. The military-political situation in the world, Russia's new geopolitical and geostrategic situation and its national interests oblige us to ensure that the state is reliably defended. Though the ideological confrontation of two systems, the rigid stand-off of blocs, and the stereotypes of the Cold War have receded into the past, there is a danger in the world today of regional armed conflicts arising which are capable of sparking off a big war.

Unfortunately, the danger of war remains today, too, because of a complex combination of historical, territorial, political, economic, and interethnic contradictions. While this danger remains, we must strengthen and qualitatively renew our Armed Forces. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that the cause of defending the state is the cause of the whole people. Russia's Armed Forces are today battleworthy, on target [upravlyayemyye], and ready to defend the state from any encroachment and guarantee the country's national security.

At this hour, before the whole people, I address myself to the warriors of the Army and the Navy. Our military duty and obligation is a high level of battleworthiness, vigilence, and perfection. Our purpose is the greatness and glory of the fatherland. Only the soldier who is brought up to love the motherland, to take pride in it, and to respect history and the glorious deeds of his ancestors who defended the freedom and independence of their fatherland, only he is capable of defending his native land.

This, too, is one of the lessons of our great victory, which it is our duty to remember always. Here, on Poklonnaya Gora, at a sacred place of military glory, in Moscow — a heroic city which, despite all, never let itself be conquered by the enemy — we mark the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War with a solemn parade of our troops. Here, on Poklonnaya Gora, we reaffirm our loyalty to the sacred ideals of our motherland's freedom and independence, the dauntless spirit and military glory of the Russian warriors.

Today we bow our heads in memory of the great heroism of the Soviet and Russian soldiers who destroyed fascism thanks to their superhuman efforts, unexampled courage, and self-sacrifice, liberating half Europe and in fact saving the entire civilization on earth. It was you, our dear veterans, who put the final, victorious stop to the Second World War. We honor and glorify you for this, and bow low to you like respectful sons. Your names and heroic deeds will go down forever in the history of the Russian state and will evoke in future generations the feeling of dignity and national pride for their fatherland.

Today we bow our heads in memory of tens of millions of people of different nationality who sacrificed their lives on the altar of victory. May they enjoy the eternal memory and gratitude of all of mankind. Glory to the heroes, both alive and dead, glory to the victorious people. Long live our great Russia and its Armed Forces. Happy Victory Day to you, dear comrades. Hooray.

Leaders Speak at Victory Memorial Opening 9 May

Chernomyrdin Address at Ceremony

LD0905112695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0921 GMT 9 May 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the ceremony on the opening of the Victory Memorial in Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear veterans of the Great Patriotic War! Esteemed participants in the festive celebrations! Esteemed foreign guests and Russians!

This is an exciting day for all of us. Today is a great and bright holiday. Today is Victory Day. Half a century ago, the bloodiest of wars came to an end. Half a century ago, the peoples of the USSR, the United States of America, Great Britain, France, China, and other countries in the anti-Hitler coalition made the guns fall silent, and won mankind's future back from barbarity and hatred. Half a century later, the memory of those feats, and of the survivors, does not fade. The memory is a grateful one; it is timeless and undying. In our hearts and souls today there is pride and joy in equal measure with a sacred sorrow, for the price of victory was a great one. This day was paid for with the lives of 57 million victims of war, and 27 million of these belonged to our compatriots. Their graves lie at every scorched mile along which the whirlwind of war passed. Eternal glory to them, and eternal rest.

Today we have gathered here at Poklonnaya Hill in order to pay our respects to those who — half a century ago, at the cost of inhuman efforts, incomparable endurance, and self-sacrifice — defended their native soil, who liberated Europe, and who preserved civilization from the threat of degradation and annihilation. We have gathered in order to show our love and respect by bowing our heads to the soldiers of the Great Patriotic and Second World Wars who are greeting this day of courage and valor together with their sons and grandsons. It is you who were the main labor force of the war. The main burden was on your shoulders. A deep bow to you, a deep bow to the soldiers, for the fact that you overcame everything, that you endured and were victorious. The enemy was unable to break the spirit of our people, to undermine its will for the struggle for the freedom and independence of our motherland. Rallying in the face of a common calamity, forgetting about their own misfortunes, difficulties and deprivations, everyone devoted themselves to the defense of the fatherland. This is why the war is called the Great Patriotic War by all the fraternal peoples. Where new borders divide the veterans, they continue to feel themselves to be the soldiers of victory, who stood together, shoulder to shoulder in one military formation. Whatever countries of the CIS you may live in today, this is your victory, dear veterans, and nobody can take that away from you. The names of thousands and thousands of sons and daughters of our peoples are inscribed for all eternity in the chronicles of the great victory. Friendship and fraternal assistance held us together in the time of trials. Friendship and close cooperation should be a bulwark and a help for us today.

Victory is indivisible, and belongs to everyone. The infantry and the artillerymen, the pilots and the tank crews, the sailors and the home guard, the partisans — all of them brought victory closer by their soldierly work day by day. Their talents, amplified by the talents of the commanders and generals, won the battles and conflicts. The arms for victory were forged in the rear by men and women, by youngsters and old people, by those who organized the military economy and consignments of combat equipment. Everything for the front! Everything for victory! Such was the watchword for the whole country, the great and the small.

One could not overestimate the contribution made to the victory by our women, the mothers, wives, and sisters. Their lot was no easier than that of those at the front. They brought up the children, and worked for two, both themselves and their husbands, brothers, fathers or sons. The saved soldiers at the front line and in the hospitals. Half a million women saw active service in the army.

Honor and glory to all those who half a century ago brought peace and hope to the peoples, who brought back the joy of life and freedom!

The memorial that is being opened today is and will continue to be an embodiment and a symbol of the memory of the whole people. The main obelisk, recording all the 1,418 days of the Great Patriotic War, stands over Maytime Moscow as a golden victory wreath. The harsh truth about the war and about people's heroic destinies are in the relics in the central museum. All of this is a memorial to our eternal pain and sorrow about the tragedies of the years of war, and a memorial to our pride in the great feat of the people. A heartfelt thank-you to the architects, artists and builders, to all who put their hearts and concern into the building of this impressive monument. I will not be wrong if I say that it has been erected because the whole country and all citizens of Russia care. May it be a reminder for our descendants and the inheritors of the victory generation about your feats, dear veterans, about your self-denial, about your honor and glory! May it be a sign of our gratitude and respect for those thanks to whom the motherland continues, and Russia continues. Congratulations on this holiday!

TV Broadcasts Shevardnadze Speech

LD0905122995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0928 GMT 9 May 95

[Speech by Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze at the ceremony of the opening of the Victory Memorial in Moscow — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Respected president of Russia, respected prime minister of Russia, ladies, gentlemen and friends, it is a lovely idea, this old idea of having hill of tribute [poklonnaya gory] in Russia where one pays tribute to a holy place. Today we should bow to the genius of Russia, to Moscow its sacred place, to Russia for its feat. It is no shame to bow to land which holds the remains of soldiers from all of Russia's patriotic wars. They fought for their fatherland.

It is our duty to defend the height of historical truth and justice at any cost just as our brothers and fathers defended the [word indistinct] heights of the Great Patriotic War. All the peoples of the Soviet Union took part in casting the bell of victory, but it was Russian metal which fastened it. There are no better words to describe this than those used after the Victory Parade of 1945.

All of the peoples of the Soviet Union were fighting for the freedom and independence of their motherland and they were all hoping for a better life after victory. All the peoples of the Soviet Union aspired to achieve true statehood and Russia began the first movement in that direction. The two events of the century — the victory over fascism and the creation of independent states — would have been impossible without Russia. Nor would peace and stability across the huge Eurasian space nor peace in Europe and throughout the whole world be possible without her.

Here on Poklonnaya Hill, it is fitting to speak of the new mission of the new Russia: to make fast without overwhelming, to defend and preserve without striking terror. That is a mission which is vitally important for Georgia and other countries whose independence was achieved through suffering just as Russia's independence was attained. It is vitally important for Russia herself as the independence, unity, and prosperity of neighboring countries are guarantees of a new, strong, democratic, and integral Russia. What is bad for my little Georgia should not be good for great Russia. What is bad for Russia is equally bad and pernicious for Georgia and all of our history is proof of this. True greatness is not based on the shattered foundations of cloven countries.

We experience Poklonnaya Hill not only on the level of the scale and the unique nature of its monumental art, but also on the level of the scope of humanity. In tune with the human dimension of the great victory, it demands that we should not diminish the feat of the soldiers by equating Hitlerite fascism and the country which they were defending, that we should not equate the liberation of the peoples of Europe with totalitarian domination of them, that we should not identify the symbol of this feat — the victory banner — as a symbol of the dispersal of peoples and the division of the continents.

The descendants of the liberators brought down the dividing walls and that was the second liberation of Europe. The 50th anniversary of victory reminds us that victory was possible thanks to the unity of the peoples and countries and not to their differences. It was possible thanks to the ability of the leaders to rise above their ideological, political, class and all other differences, which they discarded for the sake of the most important thing — victory, as Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said so beautifully today. It was possible because they acted from the standpoint of their common interests. They gave us an open lesson in history, demonstrating their readiness to be concerned for building the post-war peace. We have not always been good pupils: the victory over the Cold War also failed to teach us to act together, in accord and at times in concert.

The worst thing of all is that many people have still not recognized that their national interests can be defended securely only within the framework of defending globally the values of all humankind. Let the minute's silence on Poklonnaya Hill be a minute to ponder this. Let us now, from this hill, draw a line in the century across which the world cannot carry the burden of its errors and delusions. Thank you.

PRC President's Speech

LD0905131695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0933 GMT 9 May 95

[Speech by PRC President Jiang Zemin at the ceremonial opening of the Victory Memorial in Moscow; Jiang Zemin speaks in Mandarin with Russian translation — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin! Esteemed high-ranking guests from various parts of the world! Esteemed representatives of the Russian public! Ladies and gentlemen! Dear friends!

I am very pleased to come to Moscow, at the kind invitation of His Excellency President Yeltsin, to take part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory in the war with fascism. First of all, allow me to congratulate you warmly on behalf of the government and the people of China and to express our great respect for the people of Russia and to all other peoples of the former Soviet Union who made a great contribution to the victory in the anti-fascist world war. The anti-fascist war 50 years ago was a great combat between justice and evil, light and darkness, progress and reaction in the history of mankind. In the face of the fascist aggression, over 50 countries — including the Soviet Union, China, the United States, England, and France, and all peace-loving nations of the world — united in a broad international antifascist front, supporting one another, fought heroically and finally routed the fascist aggressors.

The victory in the antifascist war laid the foundation for peace in the whole world, opened the way toward national liberation, advanced progress in human society, and created an ever-shining monument in the history of the world civilization.

Standing in front of the memorial to the Great Patriotic War, we are moved as we recall the historic picture of antifascist struggle. We cannot forget the iron will and the fearlessness shown by the army and the peoples of the Soviet Union when they were confronted with the fascist troops which surrounded Moscow. We cannot forget the 900-day battle to defend the Hero City of Leningrad. We cannot forget the days and nights of the great Battle of Stalingrad that proved to be a turning-point in World War II. Nor can we forget the storming of Berlin and the victorious meeting [of Russian and American troops] on the Elbe. The Soviet-German front, being the main front of the antifascist war in Europe, undertook the difficult task of rebuffing 80 percent of the German fascists' armed forces.

The victory cost the Soviet people 27 million [figure as heard] human lives and incalculable national resources. Rarely in the history of the world has the people of one country suffered such colossal casualties and yet nevertheless gone on to win a victory in a fatherland war. The ever-radiant deeds of the people and army of the Soviet Union will be written for eternity in the chronicle of mankind.

The antifascist struggle of the United States, Britain, France, and the other Western countries inflicted a heavy blow on fascist Germany and speeded up its collapse. The peoples of the various countries who found themselves under the bloody yoke of Hitler's new European order played an important role in routing fascism by waging a courageous partisan war and resistance movements.

In the East, the peoples of China and other countries of Asia unleashed a widescale anti-Japanese war. The Chinese-Japanese front, as the main front in the East, offered resistance and pinned down two-thirds of Japan's ground forces. The army and people of China lost 35 million dead and wounded. The Chinese people, having carried out a lengthy and most grievous anti-Japanese war for eight years, in close coordination with the Soviet Union, the United States, and other allied countries, finally wrecked the hegemonist plans of Japanese militarism, and made its indelible contribution to the victory in the world antifascist war.

Long years have passed and huge changes have taken place in the world.

History is truly the most vivid textbook. The aggressive war unleashed by fascism inflicted a terrible disaster on mankind; but at the same time, it taught the peoples a lot. The peoples of peace won the war. Peace and progress were the winners. Half a century has passed, but harsh memories, triumphal joy, and profound reflection are sobering people up more and more.

History shows that peace did not come easily. A repetition of the tragedy of the world war is absolutely unacceptable. It is necessary to constantly maintain a heightened sense of vigilance, to develop and strengthen more and more the forces of peace, and to restrain and eliminate all factors capable of leading to war.

History shows that, ultimately, the people remain the masters of their destiny and the engine of social development. This just and progressive cause will definitely triumph: no force can either smother it or stop it.

History shows that countries with different social systems and ideologies can unite in order to face together the challenge thrown down to the survival and development of mankind. The five principles of peaceful coexistence must become the basic norms governing interstate relations.

History shows that all countries must proceed along the path of peace and development. Aggression and expansion will lead to disasters. Only peace and development will bring prosperity. The world needs peace, a country needs development, and society seeks progress — this has become the irresistible spirit of our age.

History shows that the fate of mankind is deeply interrelated. The bonds linking the world economy and all countries are today growing stronger. International cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual advantage is becoming more and more topical. No country can isolate itself from the world community — and it is especially true that no country can elevate itself above that community. Only by strengthening international cooperation can we achieve joint development.

During the anti-fascist war a profound friendship was forged between the Chinese and Russian peoples. Today, relations between our countries have developed further: namely, looking together toward the 21st century, guided by the five principles of peaceful coexistence, our two countries have become good neighbors, good partners, and great friends. In other words, our countries have already established relations of good-neighborliness, friendship, mutually-beneficial cooperation, and common prosperity; they are neither in conflict with one another nor do they form part of any alliance. I am profoundly convinced that such new-style relations are endowed with vital force. They will unfailingly contribute to the good of the peoples of China and Russia, and also serve the cause of peace and development throughout the world.

Ladies and gentlemen! Mankind is already approaching the threshold of the 21st century. Summing up the results of the past and looking to the future, we realize that on our shoulders lies a glorious and weighty historic mission. The Chinese people is ready to join the peoples of all countries of the world and to exert joint efforts, giving support to one another, to fight to build a new world, where peace and cooperation, justice and equal rights, universal prosperity and uninterrupted progress, reign.

Let our descendants live for ever under the bright sun of universal peace! Mankind's noble and great goal will be attained without fail!

Thank you for your attention. [preceding sentence spoken by Jiang in Russian] [scattered applause]

Speech by UK's Major Cited

LD0905124895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1159 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 9 (Itar-Tass) — British Prime Minister John Major warned Tuesday against a new division of Europe and said Russia is to play a central role in the partnership on the continent.

"Having banished the divisions of the past we must not let even the shadow of a new division fall across Europe. We need to forge a chain of new relationships binding us together in a durable peace", he said at the opening of a vast World War Two memorial complex in Moscow.

"Britain is looking for a complete system of partnership in which partnership with Russia must be a central component", the prime minister added.

"We share together the responsibility to spare our people the sufferings of conflicts within, as well as beyond, our national borders", Major said.

Referring to the Russian opposition to the plans of NATO expansion and its insistence that the Organisation for the Security and Cooperation in Europe should be the chief safeguard of security on the continent, Major said "we see a continuing need for relationshsips and the institutions that have served us well, but other mechanisms will be needed as well".

President Clinton's Speech

LD0905133795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0956 GMT 9 May 95

[Speech by President Bill Clinton at the ceremony of the opening of the Victory Memorial in Moscow — live; Clinton speaks in English, with passage-by-passage translation into Russian by interpreter on podium with Clinton; editorial notes indicate passages in the Russian translation that differ from the English transcription]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Yeltsin, Mr. Prime Minister, Prime Minister Major, President Jiang, President Shevardnadze, Mr. Mayor, the distinguished Patriarch Aleksiy II, [Russian translation adds: "President Mitterrand, Secretary General Butrus-Ghali,"] to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, ladies and gentlemen.

We come together today as friends to celebrate our shared victory over fascism, to remember the sacrifice of those of you who made it possible and to fulfill the promise of an enduring peace that (?shown) so brightly, but all too briefly, 50 years ago today. Brave men and women from our nations fought a common enemy with uncommon valor. Theirs was a partnership forged in battle, strengthened by sacrifice, cemented by blood. Their extraordinary effort speaks to us still of all that is possible when our people are joined in a just cause.

With me today is an American, veteran of the Great War, Lieutenant William Robertson. As the war entered its final days, Lt. Robertson's patrol sighted troops led by Lt. Aleksandr Silvashko across the Elbe River.

Crawling toward each other on the girders of a wrecked bridge, these two officers met at the midpoint and embraced in triumph. [Russian translation adds: "Their soldiers raised their glasses to peace."] They exchanged photographs of wives, children, loved ones whose freedom they had defended, whose future they would secure. The Americans did not speak Russian, and the Russians did not speak English but they shared a language of joy.

The Americans at the Elbe will remember how their new Russian friends danced that night but how their jubilation turned solemn because each of them had lost someone, a family member, a loved one, a friend — one out of every eight Soviet citizens was killed. Soldiers in battle, prisoners by disease or starvation, innocent children who could find no refuge [Russian translation adds: "from the terrible, bloody slaughter on your land."]. In all, of the 27 million people who lost their lives in the war, there were Russians and Belarusians, Uzbeks and Jews, Ukrainians, Armenians, Georgians, and more. These numbers numb the mind and defy comprehension.

I say to you, President Yeltsin, and to all the people of Russia and the other republics of the former Soviet Union: the Cold War obscured our ability to fully appreciate what your people had suffered and how your extraordinary courage helped to hasten the victory we all celebrate today.

Now we must all say you wrote some of the greatest chapters in the history of heroism at Leningrad, in the battle for Moscow, in the defense of Stalingrad and in the assault on Berlin where your country lost 300,000 casualties in only 14 days. [Russian translation of passage: "...in the battle for Moscow in which the valiant defenders of your capital stopped the enemy only a few kilometers from the Kremlin, in the defense of Stalingrad which cost your country 300,000 dead in 14 days."]

I have come here today on behalf of all of the people of the United States to express our deep gratitude for all that you gave and all that you lost to defeat the forces of fascism.

In victory's afterglow, the dream of peace soon gave way to the reality of the Cold War, but now Russia has opened itself to new freedom. We have an opportunity and an obligation to rededicate ourselves today to the promise of that moment 50 years ago when Europe's guns fell silent.

Just as Russians and Americans fought together fifty years ago against the common evil, so today we must fight for the common good.

We must work for an end to the awful savagery of war and the senseless violence of terrorism. We must work for the creation of a united prosperous Europe. We must work for the freedom of all of our people to live up to their God's given potential.

These are our most sacred tasks and most solemn obligations.

This is what we owe to the brave veterans who brought tears to our eyes when they marched together with such pride and courage in Red Square today.

And this is what we owe to the generation of our children still to be born. Let us do our duty, as the veterans of World War II did theirs.

Thank you.

Arrivals, Meetings

Kozyrev Briefs Press on Yeltsin-UN Chief Meeting

Says Russia Supports UN Efforts

LD0805201095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1942 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia fully supports the U.N. efforts to strengthen peace and facilitate social and economic development in the world, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Meeting journalists after his talks with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Kozyrev said Russian President Boris Yeltsin confirmed Russia's support for the United Nations' activities and its leader during his meeting with Butrus-Ghali earlier today.

The U.N. chief said he discussed not only U.N. peacekeeping operations in various trouble spots, but also economic cooperation, particularly measures to follow up on the World Social Summit in Copenhagen in March, Butrus-Ghali said.

This is a very important prerequisite for peace which is crucial for social and economic development, he added.

On Tuesday, Butrus-Ghali will take part in the commemorative ceremonies in Moscow to observe the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

Favors 'Softening' Sanctions on Belgrade

LD0805142295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 7 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said he believed that the "main handicap for settlement in ex-Yugoslavia is the lack of progress in softening the sanctions against Belgrade."

He told an Interfax correspondent in Moscow today that Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali had focused their attention on discussion of the situation in ex-Yugoslavia and, in particular in Croatia, at their thirty-minute-long meeting in Moscow today.

Kozyrev said that "some countries whose peacekeepers are in Croatia are getting nervous because of the deterioration of the situation in this republic."

Kozyrev said Russia was not panic-stricken. He said the Russian president had reassured the UN secretary general that Russian peacekeepers would remain in Croatia. Kozyrev said that otherwise control over the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be lost completely.

Kozyrev said he had sent a message to the foreign ministers of the member-states of the contact group on Sunday urging them to contribute to the UN Security Council adopting another resolution condemning all parties to the conflict in Croatia and primarily Croatia fighters.

Kozyrev said the world community should adequately respond to positive moves of Belgrade. He said he believed that the tolerant position of Belgrade towards the last events in Croatia should be adequately appraised.

Further on Yeltsin Meeting With PRC President

LD0805144795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 8 (Interfax) — The Russian-Chinese agreement on delimitation of the border between the two countries will not be reviewed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and China Communist Party Chairman Jiang Zemin said during their meeting in Moscow today, according to the Russian president's advisor on international issues, Dmitriy Ryurikov, who participated in the meeting.

Ryurikov told an Interfax correspondent in the Kremlin that Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin said the agreement had been signed and ratified and would be implemented.

Ryurikov said the Russian and Chinese leaders had discussed positive changes in bilateral relations and difficulties in trade activities which emerged from time to time. The Russian president said he believed that radical improvement of Russian-Chinese relations was the main result of the last year and a half or two years.

Yeltsin repeated that Russian-Chinese trade turnover had risen by 1.5 times over this period. Scientific-technical and military-technical cooperation is being developed between the two countries, Yeltsin said.

Ryurikov said the two leaders had not discussed non-proliferation of nuclear weapons during their meeting.

According to Ryurikov, Yeltsin said during the meeting that he considered the decision of the Chinese leader to come to Moscow and participate in the celebration of the Victory's fiftieth anniversary as showing respect for the Russian people who had won the Great Patriotic War.

Yugoslav President Lilic Arrives for Ceremonies

LD0805213595 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2119 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 8 (TANJUG) — Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic arrived in Moscow late Monday evening, where he will attend a central ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism on Tuesday, at the invitation of Russian President boris Yeltsin.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic is accompanying Lilic on this occasion.

The Yugoslav president was welcomed at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport by representative of the Russian president, Boris Barosh, first deputy minister of economy and Russian-Yugoslav Committee Co- chairman Andrey Shapovlants, and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov.

President Lilic arrived in Moscow from Paris, where he attended ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II held on Monday.

Portuguese Premier Cavaco Silva Arrives 8 May

LD0805203095 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The allied victory in World War II is being commemorated throughout the world. [passage omitted]

More than 50 Western leaders will attend the ceremonies in Moscow tomorrow. Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva will be among them. Cavaco Silva arrived in Moscow a little while ago and our correspondent Rui Onofre spoke to him.

[Onofre] The Portuguese prime minister arrived late on Monday afternoon linking Portugal to the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over the Nazi troops in World War II. When asked whether his message was different or similar to that of the European Union, Cavaco Silva said:

[Begin Silva recording] I think it is a very common message. It is a message of peace, of a wish for cooperation, of dialogue for the future, and which goes together with a special atmosphere, one of peace, which the community is committed to. Therefore, Portugal is present, despite not having taken part in the war. It is present as a member of the European Union, and the European Union is today clearly a symbol of peace and it has contributed to 50 years of peace — one of the longest periods of time in the history of humanity without a war in this region. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Chernomyrdin's Activities in Berlin

Arrives in Berlin 8 May

LD0805163495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 8 May 95

[By Leonid Vorontsov and Alekse Korinenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BERLIN, May 8 (Itar-Tass)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin started his visit to Berlin with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soviet war memorial in Tiergarten.

Chernomyrdin arrived in Berlin today to attend memorial observances marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

A commemorative meeting to be held in Berlin's Schauspielhaus theatre will become the centrepiece of the VE-Day celebrations in Germany. The meeting will be attended by German President Roman Herzog and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, as well as the leaders of four Allied countries that were members of the anti-Hitler coalition during the war.

The meeting will be opened by President Herzog. The speakers will include Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, British Prime Minister John Major, U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and French President Francois Mitterrand.

Speaks at Wreath-Laying Ceremony

LD0805211995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2058 GMT 8 May 95

[By Leonid Vorontsov and Aleksey Korinenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BERLIN, May 9 (Itar-Tass) — "On behalf of Russia I can say straightforwardly: we have no image of the enemy. We have removed this notion from our vocabulary and intend to build our relations with our neighbours and other countries on the basis of cooperation and mutual understanding," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after a wreath-laying ceremony at the Soviet war memorial in Tiergarten on Monday.

"No one needs the Cold War or the dividing walls. We need a common home," he said. "People of Russia have clear and definite intentions — to live in friendship and peace."

Russia lost 27 million people in World War II, he went on to say. "This is too dear a price and it is inadmissible to allow such a tragedy to happen again.... We have lived half a century without major upheavals and we, politicians, should do everything possible to safeguard peace for at least another 50 years. There is no more important task," he said.

"The 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe should become a starting point in the construction of a truly European system of security and stability on a non-bloc basis," the premier said.

"In these May days in London and Paris, Berlin and Moscow the statesmen of many countries extend the hand of friendship and reconciliation on behalf of their nations, strengthening by the handshake their commitment to promote greater solidarity, partnership and cooperation, their readiness to shake off the load of the past and build our common future together," he noted.

"The withdrawal of our troops from Germany drew the final line under the past. Now that the world is no longer divided into the winners and losers and our people have embarked on the path of historic reconciliation, new prospects are opening up for Russian-German cooperation," the Russian prime minister said.

He expressed "the hope and optimism" about the future of relations between the two countries, saying that "there is no alternative to close partnership, good-neighbourliness and cooperation."

"It is not easy for all of us to get rid of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall, to curb arms race and develop mutual trust. We are taking only the first steps along the new road and we need to be especially circumspect and careful in order not to shake the foundation of the present system of peace in Europe," he said.

"The desire to achieve one's own interests at the expense of others will lead in the long run to a historic catastrophe. This lesson of World War II remains topical on the threshold of the 21st century as we are seeking to devise a new European security architecture," the premier said.

Chernomyrdin stressed that "no one needs new barriers, no matter under what pretext they might be built.... We need a new coalition for peace, democracy and prosperity on the basis of a jointly developed strategy for the 21st century," he said.

Chernomyrdin Returns to Moscow for Meetings

Meets Polish, Bulgarian Premiers

LD0905082095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 9 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 May — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today held talks with Polish Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy and Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov who have arrived to attend the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet People in the Great Patriotic War.

At the end of the celebratory parade on the Hill of Tributes [Poklonnaya gora], the head of the Russian Government will hold talks with Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

Krylov on Premier's Meetings

LD0905111695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1032 GMT 9 May 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 9 (Itar-Tass) — Talks held by the Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin with his counterparts from Poland and Bulgaria held on the V-E day and his meeting with the head of the Slovak government scheduled later in the day reflect a growing interest displayed by countries of Central Europe in strengthening contacts with Russia, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov, who had taken part in the talks, in an interview with Itar-Tass today.

Krylov said that during the talks between Chernomyrdin and his Polish counterpart Josef Oleksy the sides analyzed the progress of the implementation of bilateral agreements reached during Chernomyrdin's visit to Warsaw in February. Chernomyrdin and Oleksy have cemented their personal contacts. Oleksy took part in the talks with Chernomyrdin as the chairman of the Polish cabinet of ministers for the first time, Krylov said.

According to the Russian diplomat, the visit of the Polish Prime Minister to Russia to attend the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Victory is a remarkable factor in the history of Russo-Polish relations. The Russian diplomat reminded of the fact that at first, president Lech Walesa had decided to send only his personal envoy to attend festivities in Moscow. However, later the Polish president changed his decision and as a result, on the V-E day Poland is represented in Moscow both by a personal envoy of the Polish president and the Prime Minister, which, in the opinion of the Russian diplomat, reflects a positive shift in Russo-Polish relations.

President Clinton Arrives 9 May for Ceremony

LD0905071095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0303 GMT 9 May 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton has arrived in Moscow to take part in celebrations of the Allies' World War II Victory in Europe. His talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin will begin tomorrow, during which they will discuss questions of bilateral relations and the most important international issues.

After that, the head of the U.S. Administration is planning to visit Kiev and have talks with President Leonid Kuchma and other Ukrainian leaders. Bill Clinton will return to Washington on 12 May. [Video shows Clinton coming out of the plane accompanied by his wife Hillary]

Lays Wreath at Memorial

LD0905071895 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0420 GMT 9 May 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our mobile camera units are working in Aleksandrovskiy Garden, which gives you an opportunity to witness U.S. President Bill Clinton laying wreaths at the Unknown Soldier's memorial. He arrived in Moscow about an hour ago to take part in celebrations of the Allies' World War II Victory in Europe.

The U.S. President is accompanied by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Treasury Secretary, and other high-ranking Administration officials.

I shall remind you that tomorrow President Clinton will begin talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. [Video shows Clinton laying wreaths to the memorial over background music of Rachmaninov's first piano concerto, talking to officials and exchanging brief words with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev]

German Chancellor Arrives 9 May, Lays Wreath

LD0905135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 9 May 95

[By Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 9 (Itar-Tass) — German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived here today. He laid a wreath to the Unknown Soldier tomb near the Kremlin wall and commemorate servicemen of the Soviet Army with a minute of silence.

He also visited the Lyublino cemetery which was open in June 1945 for burial of POW from special hospital #2658. About 600 POW of eleven nationalities were buried there, among them 516 ethnic Germans. The latest reconstruction of the memorial was held earlier this year on project of the War Memorials Association and together with the German People's Union.

A Catholic and a Protestant church services were delivered at the cemetery in the presence of family members of the buried POW.

Helmut Kohl expressed the hope that the tragic past will never repeat. Brother of Helmut Kohl was killed in fighting in Berlin.

The Chancellor refused to answer questions but urged respect to war victims and commemoration of the past.

Yeltsin Meets Germany's Kohl

LD0905131195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's arrival in Moscow for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Victory in Europe confirmed that relations between Russia and Germany had entered a new stage.

The Russian head of state and the German Chancellor met here today to exchange views on a variety of aspects of bilateral relations as well as of European security, the press service of the Russian President told Itar-Tass today.

The two leaders also discussed a schedule for their working contacts in the close perspective, the press service said.

Meeting Termed 'Warm, Cordial'

LD0905135595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 9 May 95

[By Nikolay Kalintsov and Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — "It was a warm and cordial meeting," the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's aide for international affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov told Itar-Tass today commenting on the conversation between Boris Yeltsin and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Ryurikov told Tass that the two leaders spoke about European security, the expansion of Nato and problems relating to the delivery of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran.

Ryurikov noted that when discussing "the Iran issue" the Russian President once again reiterated Moscow's stance: Russia intends to provide Iran with equipment only for a peaceful nuclear power station and will do everything in its power to avoid causing whatever concern over the situation.

As regards "the Chechen problem", it was touched upon briefly. the presidential aide said. Yeltsin expressed confidence that law and order will be restored to Chechnya soon.

Boris Yeltsin also expressed confidence that maximum clarity will be achieved with regard to Nato's eastward expansion during his forthcoming talks with US President Bill Clinton.

"Boris Yeltsin confirmed his stance on this question and stressed that his conversation with Bill Clinton tomorrow will be serious and circumstantial," Ryurikov said.

According to Dmitry Ryurikov, the German Chancellor confirmed his intention to pay an official visit to Russia at a date that is being specified.

Yeltsin Holds Talks With UK Prime Minister

LD0905092795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 9 May 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 May (ITAR-TASS) — "A marvellous situation has come about in which there are no significant problems of any kind in bilateral relations between Russia and Great Britain," said Dmitriy Ryurikov, the Russian president's aide on international affairs, in an interview with ITAR-TASS after taking part in a meeting today between Russian head of state Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major.

Dmitriy Ryurikov said that the meeting looked in detail at the expansion of NATO to the east. "Boris Yeltsin and John Major outlined their positions on this problem," he said. "In particular, the Russian president expressed his concern over plans for NATO's expansion and suggested that this should not be hurried." For his part, the Russian head of state's aide said, John Major recognized that Russia's point of view "merits the most serious attention." According to Dmitriy Ryurikov, Russia is advocating that the problem of expanding NATO should be resolved in the interests of Europe, of the world, of Russia, and of the West.

A press release from the press service of the president of the Russian Federation obtained by ITAR-TASS says that during the conversation satisfaction was expressed at the continuing development of partnership relations between Russia and Great Britain. There was also an exchange of views on some European and international topical political problems.

Dmitriy Ryurikov said that the meeting of the "Seven" industrially developed countries in Halifax, Canada, coming up in June 1995 was raised during the meeting. Boris Yeltsin and John Major came to the common view that "this time Russia will take a real subject-specific part in discussion of certain global economic problems." "Judging from the word of the prime minister of Great Britain, there is interest in what Russia thinks on these problems," he emphasized.

The Russian president's aide specified that the "Yugoslav" problem was not discussed at the meeting.

Duma Speaker Rybkin Meets Bulgarian Premier

LD0905101595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1001 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW May 9 (Itar-Tass) — Russian State Duma speaker opposed a hasty NATO expansion to the Russian western borders and believes it is better to speak about a security system covering the whole world from the western Vancouver city in Canada to the Russian eastern port of Vladivostok.

There should be "no haste in the issue of expanding NATO" at the expense of East European states, he said Tuesday at a meeting with Bulgarian Prime Minister Zhan Videnov.

"But if one thinks about it, why should not NATO expansion cover Russia from the very beginning". In this case "one can speak about establishing an endurable peace belt from Vancouver to Vladivostok", according to Rybkin.

Russia stands for "a united Europe, for equal partnership on the continent which will take into consideration the interests of all countries regardless of their size", according to the speaker.

Videnov said that among European leaders "there are many people working to decrease tensions on the continent".

"I can see they are sober-minded and am sure that the coming years will not result in unpleasant surprises for us", the Bulgarian prime minister said.

Grachev Meets With Veterans In Moscow Suburb

MM0805143495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 95 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Strugovets: "Army's Strength Lies in Its Soldiers and Traditions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported that Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, met war veterans and residents of the capital's Vostochnoye Izmaylovo Municipal District 4 May. Let us point out that the meeting was organized by the front-line soldiers themselves. In April the defense minister received a letter from Retired Colonel Yuriy Antonovich Sladkov. The emotional intensity of the letter and the profound alarm voiced in it for the fate of the army and the country were so strong that Army Gen. Pavel Grachev decided to personally meet this veteran and his combat comrades.

Russia's defense minister opened the meeting by pointing out that Vostochnoye Izmaylovo (previously Pervomayskiy Rayon), where 15,000 war veterans live today, can with every reason be called a front- line rayon, a warrior rayon.

In fall 1941 the Second Division of the people's militia was formed here and took part in the battle of Moscow in the Vyazemskoye sector. In all 60,000 patriots (by current yardsticks that is over four full-fledged divisions) left here for the front, where they displayed the highest brand of courage. Some 25 people became Heroes of the Soviet Union and many thousands were awarded orders and metals.

Army Gen. Pavel Grachev conveyed to the front-line soldiers on the very eve of the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War congratulations from the president of the Russian Federation, the supreme commander in chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, and the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry and dwelled on certain problems. In particular, the situation of veterans. He said that on the eve of Victory Day the Russian Defense Ministry has allocated 50 million rubles from its budget to improve the quality of hospital care and has given the Moscow Oblast Hospital for Disabled Veterans modern medical equipment.

Then Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed that it was a pleasure for him to celebrate the efforts of the rayon's veterans, who preserved the effective system of raising young draftees.

Could it be otherwise in a rayon which can rightfully be described as the birthplace of the Russian Army? Preobrazhenskoye, Semenovskoye, and Izmaylovo — how precious now we consider the names of these villages situated in what is now the capital's Vostochnyy Okrug. The regiments, which took their names from them represent the living history of the Army and Russia. And since we are talking about the continuity of generations today and our Army's combat traditions, life itself obliges us to restore historic justice. Therefore the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev said, is prepared, with the consent and backing of the rayon's war veterans, to consider the question of naming one of the Russian Army's best regiments the Izmaylovo regiment.

The veterans who gave speeches spoke of the need to restore the system of military-patriotic education and put an end to the badmouthing of the Army in the mass media. They set out questions that worry them in an appeal to the Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, supreme commander in chief of the Russian Armed Forces, which we are publishing today at the front-line soldiers' request.

Other Events, Commentary

Yeltsin Edict on Victory Day Commemorations

MM0905081195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 95 p 1

[Russian President's Edict No. 446 in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Victory Day, signed by President Yeltsin in the Kremlin, Moscow, dated 5 May 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade soldiers and sailors, sergeants and petty officers!

Comrade warrant officers and ensigns!

Comrade officers, generals, and admirals!

Comrade veterans of the Great Patriotic War and the Armed Forces, former people's volunteers, partisans and members of the underground, and rear service workers!

Russians!

On 9 May 1995 it is 50 years since the Day of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. On that day the battle for our motherland's freedom and independence which was unprecedented in its ferocity ended in the complete rout of Nazism.

Victory was won at the cost of millions of casualties, incalculable deprivations, selfless labor, and military exploits. It has gone down forever in history as a symbol of indefatigable patriotic spirit, the friendship of the peoples, loyalty to military duty, and dedication to the fatherland. The Victory over Fascism won together with the allies in the anti-Hitler coalition in May 1945 was a triumph for justice, humanism, and good; it was a crushing blow to the ideas and practice of misanthropy and the enslavement of the peoples raised to the level of state policy by the "Third Reich."

During the years of battle against fascism our fatherland's servicemen displayed in full their best qualities — steadfastness, courage, fidelity to duty and the oath, and boundless love for the motherland. The peoples of many countries owe their liberation from the "brown plague" to the Red Army's soldiers, who traveled the incredibly difficult road of war from Moscow to Berlin. Millions of our fellow countrymen fell on that difficult path to Victory. May their memory live on forever!

The heroic traditions of Great Patriotic War front liners live on and are continued in the daily lives and combat activity of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces. Russia's servicemen are steadfastly fulfilling their duty to the motherland and in extreme conditions are setting examples of heroism and courage. Russia's citizens may be confident that the Russian Army's servicemen are ready to protect the fatherland just as selflessly as their fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers did during the Great Patriotic War.

I congratulate Great Patriotic War veterans on the sacred holiday — Victory Day!

On Victory Day I congratulate army and navy servicemen, veterans of labor and the Armed Forces, and all citizens of the Russian Federation, who made their contribution to the rout of fascism!

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, I decree:

1. That at 0900 on 9 May 1995 a parade of participants in the Great Patriotic War and rear service veterans with troops from the Moscow garrison be held on Red Square.

Army General Vladimir Leonidovich Govorov is appointed commander of the parade.

Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Georgiyevich Kulikov will review the parade.

2. Combined units and units of the Russian Federation Armed Forces will take part in a military victory parade on Poklonnaya Hill on 9 May 1945 beginning at 1200.

Colonel General Leonid Vasiliyevich Kuznetsov, commander of the Moscow Military District, is appointed to command the parade.

Army General Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev, the Russian defense minister, will review the parade.

3. At 2200 on 9 May 1995 there will be a ceremonial 50-gun salute in Moscow, the capital of our motherland, Vladivostok, Volgograd, Yekaterinburg, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novorossiysk, Novosibirsk, Petrozavodsk, Rostov-na-Donu, Samara, St. Petersburg, Severomorsk, Smolensk, Tula, Khabarovsk, and Chita.

Grachev 'Order of the Day' on Army Anniversary

MM0805144495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 95 p 1

[Defense Minister Order of the Day No. 157, signed by Army General P. Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, and dated Moscow, 7 May 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade soldiers and seamen, sergeants and petty officers, warrant officers, ensigns, and officers!

Comrade veterans of the Great Patriotic War, labor veterans, and veterans of the Armed Forces!

Army and Navy soldiers celebrate the third anniversary of the creation of the Russian Federation Armed Forces 7 May 1995.

History has decreed that the new Russian Army should celebrate its foundation on the threshold of the Great Victory Day, on the eve of its 50th anniversary. One of the main lessons of the Great Patriotic War is that in order to successfully rebuff any aggression and reliably ensure the country's security sufficiently powerful Armed Forces are needed, capable of performing a wide range of strategic tasks. To this end constant concern to strengthen and improve them and develop military art and science and personnel's patriotic, military, and moral training is required.

Today, despite all the difficulties, the Army is a reliable state institution and is ready to defend Russia against any encroachments.

At all times the Russian Army was and remains an army of the people. That is the source of the Russian Armed Forces' might, their combat spirit, and invincibility. Today our troops are displaying courage and heroism in performing their tasks of restoring constitutional order and legality in the Chechen Republic and are ensuring our state's security and territorial integrity.

I hope that the personnel of the Russian Federation Armed Forces will be loyal to their military oath, selflessly serve their people, courageously defend the Fatherland, and prize military honor and troop fellowship. I express confidence that during the year of the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory the men of the Army and Navy will continue to steadily boost combat readiness, strengthen military discipline and organization, and continue the glorious combat traditions of the older generations of defenders of the Fatherland.

On the third anniversary of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, I greet and congratulate army and navy personnel and veterans, defense enterprise workers and employees, everyone who by their labor maintains and strengthens the defense capability of our great motherland.

[Signed] Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister

Moscow, 7 May 1995

FSB To Use '40,000' Troops During Celebrations

LD0805163595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1500 GMT on 8 May carries a two-minute report by correspondent Nikolay Nikolayev on security provisions in Russia for the period of the Victory Day celebrations. "The Federal Security Service [FSB] intends to use up to 40,000 of its staff all over Russia for the festivities," Nikolayev says, adding that 5,000 militia school cadets from different towns have been sent to Moscow to reinforce the 60,000- strong Moscow police. Noting that the tightening of security could only be compared with the 1980 Olympics, the correspondent goes over to Vladimir Vershov, head of the press service of the city administration of interior, who says that "a better system of control has been set up, with more attention to detail." No one is expecting terrorist acts, but "should the need suddenly arise to take decisive actions, the response will be appropriate. I would not like to start giving examples now, because this would be improper and wrong, but the actions will be resolute depending on what has happened," Vershov adds.

20,000 Take Part in Opposition Procession

LD0905122095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 9 (Interfax) — A procession organized by the Officers' Union, the Russian Communist Party, Working Russia and several other opposition organizations on the 50th anniversary of V-E Day proceeded under red flags, portraits of Stalin and Soviet military leaders from the square outside Belaruskiy railway station to Lubyanka square in the center of Moscow Tuesday.

Interfax was told at the Moscow Interior Department that as many as 20,000 people took part in the demonstration permitted by the authorities and led by war veterans.

The demonstrators included the Chairman of the Permanent Presidium of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies Sazhi Umalatova, the leader of the Russian Communist Labor Party and Working Russia movement Viktor Anpilov, the head of the Russian Party of Communists Anatoliy Kryuchkov, the Chairman of the Union of Communist Parties (CPSU) Oleg Shenin.

Before the procession participants were congratulated on the anniversary by the leaders of the Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov and the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

According to an Interfax reporter, the vehicle from which Anpilov addressed the demonstration carried Stalin's portrait and a banner saying "Take the Victory flag to the Kremlin".

Talking to the press Zyuganov indicated that in his speech at the parade in Red Square President Boris Yeltsin did not mention the war-time Supreme Commander-in-Chief Josef Stalin or say a single world about the contribution of Communists to the victory over Nazism.

According to an Interfax reporter, before the procession various opposition newspapers were sold and funds were raised for the needs of the Communist press. The newspaper of Aleksandr Barkashov's Russian National Unity movement was distributed freely together with leaflets calling for the establishment of "Russian order over Russian land."

Communist Leader Denounces Official Celebrations

LD0905094195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] While the official activities [to mark Victory Day] were taking place in front of the Mausoleum, the opposition was preparing to hold alternative activities. Here is the opinion of Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party, and one of the organizers of the opposition march, on the unwillingness of the opposition to take part in the official ceremonies.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] They have coyly covered the name of Lenin on the Mausoleum, they have coyly forgotten the commander in chief, Stalin, and they did not even mention the name of Zhukov in their speeches. Instead of providing the best seats for the veterans and demonstrating the young generation's love and respect for the fatherland, they have kept the veterans back on the square since 0700. To my mind, it would have been possible to arrange this holiday differently.

On the other hand, the president says that from this square the soldiers went to defend Russia, rather than the Soviet Union, and stresses at the same time that one should reflect history correctly. Excuse me; if we are to reflect history correctly we should say how it was in history. Who did defend the country? The Red Army. The did not mention this. What did they defend? The Soviet Union. They have betrayed it themselves. [end recording]

Committee Denounces Ban on Veterans Parade

MM0905085895 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 95 p 1

[Statement by the Public Organizing Committee for the Preparation and Holding of the Victory Day Events: "A Slap in the Face for the Victors" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Public Organizing Committee for the Preparation and Holding of the Victory Day Events headed by Army General V. Varennikov issued a statement for the press which has also been handed to a number of foreign embassies. We give the text of the document below — in our view it needs no commentary.

The ruling regime has once again demonstrated its true character by effectively banning the now traditional Great Patriotic War veterans' procession from Moscow's Belorussia Station along Tverskaya Street to Red Square. Having ignored the State Duma decree and the numerous appeals of sociopolitical organizations, the Moscow authorities have proposed that the victorious heroes march through the backstreets of the city which they defended in the war years at the cost of the lives of many of their front-line friends and comrades. The movement of many thousands of demonstrators marching in columns along narrow streets in direct proximity to underpasses and overpasses does not correspond to the most elementary requirements of ensuring citizens' personal and public safety. It is difficult to describe this decision by the Moscow city government as anything other than a disgrace. The veterans' procession along the route proposed by City Hall would be an insult to the honor and dignity of all Muscovites and visitors to the capital who will be taking part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory.

As a result of the ill-conceived actions by the Moscow and federal authorities, which have clear political overtones, only just over 4,000 of the 240,000 Great Patriotic War veterans living in the hero city of Moscow will be able to take part in the organized celebrations and will march across Red Square as part of the official events. The exclusion of large masses of the population from participating in a celebration which is rightly considered a celebration of all the people threatens to create a new focus of social tension not only in the Russian capital. This could be the signal for a toughening of the authoritarian rule of the country and a further onslaught on citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms. It is no coincidence that a representative of the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office has expressed disagreement with the Moscow Government's decision on the grounds that it is absolutely unlawful and contravenes the Russian Federation Constitution.

The organizing committee for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 protests strongly at the decision of the Moscow and federal authorities. Unless it is reconsidered within a sensible time frame the organizing committee warns that the entire responsibility for the possible negative reaction of citizens at the start of the procession will rest on the leaders of the Moscow and Russian Federation executive organs.

[Signed] Hero of the Soviet Union Army General V. Varennikov, chairman of the organizing committee; Colonel General V. Achalov, chairman of the All-Russia Officers' Assembly Presidium; Lieutenant General B. Tarasov, chairman of the board of the Fatherland movement; Ye. Dorovin, member of the bureau of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Moscow City Committee; V. Shlortiy, cochairman of the Working Moscow sociopolitical movement; Lieutenant General M. Titov, member of the Working Moscow movement's Political Council; and V. Anpilov, secretary of the Russian Communist Workers' Party Central Committee.

Significance of Petersburg Navy Parade Cited

MM0905123695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 May 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Maryukha: "Victory Parade Comes to the Northern Capital From the Sea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Naval seamen last gathered for a parade like this in 1957. Like the victory parade of 1945, it was reviewed by Marshal G. Zhukov. On that occasion the cruisers Mikhail Kutuzov of the Black Sea Fleet, Sverdlov of the Baltic Fleet, and Aleksandr Nevskiy of the Northern Fleet stood in the parade formation. Since then the Northern capital has seen other naval parades, but on a less prestigious scale.

From 7 through 9 May ships from all the fleets will again lie at anchor in the roadsteads on parade. Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, explained that the actual opening ceremony of the country's main naval parade will take place 8 May. The parade will be reviewed by Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Navy, who will pass along the ships' formation in a motor launch. The Russian Navy will be represented by 22 ships. From the Northern Fleet into parade roadstead no. 4 will come the missile cruiser Marshal Ustinov. The patrol combatant Ladnyy has been instructed to represent the Black Sea Fleet. The oldest fleet — the Baltic Fleet — will have the largest representation among the participants in the parade. Seamen of the merchant fleet and fishermen will also take part in the parade — in the war years civilian tubs, hastily equipped and fitted with armor plating, fought alongside the naval seamen.

The parade on the Neva is remarkable in that the newest ship of the Russian Navy will take part in it — the missile cruiser Petr Velikiy. This will be the maiden voyage, albeit not yet autonomous, of a ship which embodies our Navy's future, the successor to generations of ships throughout the Russian fleet's 300-year history. The cruiser cannot yet be added to the Navy's complement owing to economic difficulties, but proposals from Oleg Yefremov, chief of the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry Main Shipbuilding Administration, and Boris Kharlamov, chief construction personnel of the "Baltskiy zavod" joint-stock company, for the ship to be handed over in 1996 have already been accepted at an off-site collegium session in Petersburg of the Russian Federation Government's Naval Center. Let intending visitors to the parade not be troubled by the fact that the Petr Velikiy will be towed to its parade roadstead by tugs. Ships which are already part of the Navy will also not escape the tow ropes. The Neva is a restive river, and there is no room for the giant cruisers to maneuver. Therefore, placing them on the mooring buoys without the assistance of nimble tugboats is simply unthinkable. Moreover, it must be understood that even a human being takes its first steps supported by the caring arms of its mother. And here we have a ship that was born amid no lesser travail....

Admiral Kasatonov also informed us that ships invited from the United States, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, and Belgium will also take part in the parade. And 22 flying machines of the naval air forces will be pressed into service in exhibition events during the celebrations — this is in fact a specific feature of the naval parade. There will be no demonstration missile salvos or artillery firing on the parade roadsteads, nor will any of the ships which took part in the war be escorted, even on tugs, onto the parade roadsteads - there are practically none left. Ships of the present generation will be dressed with flags, and in the evening adorned with festive illuminations. But behind the apparently monumental facade of the ships in the roadsteads lies the intensive work of hundreds of seamen. Indeed, even the motionless formation of the ships in the parade is a kind of memorial — in just the same way ships of the Baltic Fleet stood in the Neva waters more than half a century ago, freezing into the ice and shuddering from the assault of air bombs and shells, but nevertheless surviving and conquering, pummeling the ring of the occupiers' blockade with volley after volley from their guns....

Sevastopol, Severomorsk, Baltiysk, and Vladivostok have long since shared between them the title of naval capital which once belonged to St. Petersburg, the cradle of the Russian fleet. Naval celebrations will also take place on the roadsteads of these cities, where ceremonial flags on the masts of ships and boats will also welcome veterans gathered on the banks. But the fact that the main naval Victory Parade will, nevertheless, take place in St. Petersburg, and not where the fleets' main forces are based, is also a kind of tribute to the feats of the city, its citizens, the Navy, and of all participants in the Great Patriotic War alike. In my view, only in this city — which for those who fought on its approaches remains Leningrad — can memories be revived by the cold granite of the embankments and the austere formation of the warships — as if the half-century since the day the last salvo was fired on the front lines of the Great Patriotic War had not occurred.

Border Service Director on Border Issues

MM0905102195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 May 95 p 2

[Account by Viktor Sokirko, Aleksandr Khokhlov, Arkadiy Khantsevich, Igor Chernyak of undated "Direct Line" phone-in with Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federation Federal Border Service, under "Nitty-Gritty. Food for Thought" rubric: "Russia's Borders Getting in Way of Its Strategic Interests" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federation Federal Border Service, answers KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA readers' questions.

[Nikolayev] Nikolayev here.

[Caller] Hello, Andrey Ivanovich. This is Major Gusev from Moscow. People are saying that a Defense Ministry reorganization is currently being planned and that Yeltsin offered you the post of chief of the General Staff but you declined. Why is that, because of bad relations with Grachev?

[Nikolayev] Well, first, thanks for calling. Second, as a military man you must understand very well thst you cannot pick and choose posts in the Army. In my time, for example, I have been appointed to the Border Troops from the General Staff. So it is a matter for our political leadership, which acts as it sees fit. In this case there have been no conversations with me. As regards relations with the defense minister, I would not want to dramatize them. Yes, we have certain differences of opinion on the development of a state security system, the use of the Armed Forces and other forces, and their training. But the existence of various viewpoints is a normal phenomenon. So we have normal, working relations, which fully ensure collaboration between our departments.

[Caller] Good, now another question. There is a war going on in Tajikistan right now, and some newspapers are writing that the border guards are fighting but peacekeeping forces' troops are not helping them. Is there really no collaboration at all with the Defense Ministry?

[Nikolayev] It is incorrect to say that the peacekeeping forces contingent is not helping us. It simply seems to me that there is no point in advertising the forms and methods of this help. Men and equipment can be used in different ways, and not everything has to be broadcast to the general public. As regards collaboration with the 201st Motorized Rifle Division — a Russian division, I stress — right from the outset it has operated actively and supported border guards — with tank and artillery divisions and aviation. Although, of course, I do agree with you: Even closer collaboration is needed.

[Caller] This is Olga, I'm from Volgograd. Andrey Ivanovich, may I ask you a political question?

[Nikolayev] Why not, go ahead.

[Caller] Tell me, what sort of relationship do you have with the president? People say that your father was a general who served on the General Staff, that once your family even lived on the same landing as the Yeltsin family, and that it was apparently because of this old acquaintanceship that Yeltsin recommended you for the post of commander in chief....

[Nikolayev] OK. Your name is Olga...

[Caller] Olga Valeryevna.

[Nikolayev] Olga Valeryevna, my father never lived in the Urals. It's all rumors.

[Caller] Could you be called a loyal Yeltsin supporter? Because we are all now divided into those who are faithful to Yeltsin and those who are not.

[Nikolayev] I should be called a loyal person who serves his fatherland, Russia. If that suits you.

[Caller] OK. Andrey Ivanovich, just another little question. Is it true that your mother is a poet?

[Nikolayev] Yes.

[Caller] Do you write poetry too?

[Nikolayev] No, I don't.

[Caller] Why not, because you do not feel the urge?

[Nikolayev] No.

[Caller] Hello. Andrey Ivanovich? Vladimir Vasilyevich Kuzmin of Kronshtadt here. My first question is this: Why can't we, like Turkey, make a retaliatory strike against Tajik oppositionists and ultimately Afghan mojahedin, so that they do not creep over the border any more? Second: How can I get to Tajikistan as a contract serviceman?

[Nikolayev] I will start with the second question. You can apply to the Northwest Border District Directorate, it's in St. Petersburg, do you know it?

[Caller] Of course.

[Nikolayev] Did you serve in the Army?

[Caller] I certainly did!

[Nikolayev] So, Vladimir Vasilyevich, we are prepared to take you on contract to serve not only in Tajikistan but also in St. Petersburg, Kronshtadt, or somewhere nearby. If you have any questions, please call me. The telephone number is 224-19-73, it's in the Lubyanka.

Now the first question: We all can. And we are doing everything necessary to secure our border posts in Tajikistan.

[Caller] Hello, Andrey Ivanovich. Ibragimov from Nizhniy Novgorod here. This is my question. Lately there has been much talk about the presence of Russian Border Troops in Tajikistan. The official phrase is "to protect the southern boundaries of the CIS." But many people, Mr. Kozyrev for one, are saying that Russia has strategic interests there. In your opinion what are these interests? And are they worth the casualties being suffered by Russia — because so many young men are dying....

[Nikolayev] What nationality are you yourself?

[Caller] Tajik.

[Nikolayev] How did you end up in Nizhniy Novgorod?

[Caller] Following the events of 1992 a civil war began in our country and then — incidentally a very big thank-you to the border guards — I was put on an plane in Dushanbe and sent to Moscow. At the time there was nowhere else to go. But here in Nizhniy I had acquaintances who helped me with both my work and my studies.

[Nikolayev] OK. The question which you, Comrade Ibragimov, asked requires a whole separate conversation. You are a Tajik and were forced to go to Nizhniy Novgorod. We do not want hundreds and thousands more people to leave there, nor do we want the Russian population which is there now to suffer. Do you know that almost half a million Russian-speaking citizens lived in Tajikistan in peacetime?

[Caller] Even more, I think.

[Nikolayev] Well. Twelve and a half million Russians live in Central Asia, and a total of 25 million live throughout the Commonwealth outside Russia. We are compelled to safeguard the interests of our citizens, including on borders.

The second aspect. If another neighbor has a bad time tomorrow we must ensure each other's security by joint efforts. While also bearing in mind strategic interests, because Russia once invested resources in the Tajik economy, just as Tajikistan invested its resources in the Russian economy. Because Tajikistan's cotton, aluminum — which is extracted there — and many other things are needed by Russia. So that Russia and Tajikistan can solve these problems together, it is necessary to ensure the security of borders and of this republic as a whole. How should this be done — by Tajikistan itself or with other CIS states including Russia?

The Tajik people have chosen the path of collaboration with Russia. An agreement exists. There is a legal basis for our being there.

[Caller] Is that Andrey Ivanovich? It's Aleksey Mishin's father here, Vyacheslav Ivanovich Mishin. I'm calling about my son, who is serving on the Tajik border.

[Nikolayev] Where exactly?

[Caller] What is the unit's number, Valya?

[Nikolayev] Is your wife standing next to you?

[Caller] Yes, she is at her wits' end. He is serving in Suayarve.

[Nikolayev] I know. Suayarve. Tell her that they will return from there sometime after 10 May.

[Caller] But what is the situation like right now? As parents we are very worried.

[Nikolayev] That is understandable, Vyacheslav Ivanovich. Things have become a little quieter there lately. Talks between the Tajik leadership and opposition have been held in Moscow....

[Caller] But we watch television too.

[Nikolayev] Yes, and I think that there are two wings of the Tajik opposition — one wants to conduct combat operations and one is trying somehow to get the conflict onto a political track.

But at the moment it is quiet there. We have no information that there will be a sharp exacerbation in the near future. Although they are, of course, preparing themselves and reserves are being moved up.

[Caller] Have some reinforcements reached there?

[Nikolayev] Well, you know as much as I do. Of course, we are not standing idle.

[Caller] I understand all that. And he has one and a half to two months left to serve, dammit.

[Nikolayev] Well, he will probably return in May, or at the end of May or beginning of June.... I hope he returns sooner.

[Caller] Thank you for the good information.

[Caller] Andrey Ivanovich, hello. Mikhail Stanislavovich Sarlitskiy here. I do not want to pay you compliments but I consider you an intellectual among our numerous military personnel. I would like to urge you to pay special attention to one problem. I realize that you are responsible for the entire Russian border, yet.... It looks as if the islands of Bolshoy, Ussuriyskiy, and Tarabarov are going to be handed over to the Chinese....

[Nikolayev] Don't worry, I can tell you frankly that this is the position not only of the Federal Border Service but also of the Russian president: There will be no handover of Far East islands to the Chinese. They are Russian territory.

[Caller] Thank God for that.

[Caller] Hello, Andrey Ivanovich. Aliyev here, I'm a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reader from Baku. This is my question: What could Azerbaijan's fate be if it does not agree to the stationing of Russian Border Troops or joint CIS forces on its southern border? And what is the correlation between the question of the fate of my republic's southern borders and the question of the demarcation of the Azerbaijani-Russian and Azerbaijani-Armenian sectors?

[Nikolayev] Demarcation — just like delimitation, incidentally — must be carried out irrespective of relations between Russia and Azerbaijan. As regards the border regime between Russia and Azerbaijan, it will depend to a considerable extent on the willingness of Baku and others to ensure the entire Commonwealth's security on its southern borders. If Azerbaijan meets us halfway, the border regime will undoubtedly be considerably softer. If it does not meet us halfway that means that on its borders with you [Azerbaijan], Russia will safeguard both its own interests and the interests of those CIS states which have made such agreements.

[Caller] What is your assessment of Azerbaijan's current position on the question of protecting its southern borders?

[Nikolayev] I think that Baku's position must be more constructive. Although we must not fail to appreciate the complexity of the situation in which Azerbaijan now finds itself. That is why Russia is showing the necessary patience, like other CIS states, in expectation of the appropriate steps by Azerbaijan, which is a member of the collective security system and which signed the corresponding documents on many questions.

[Caller] Hello, comrade director of the Federal Border Service.

[Nikolayev] Good day.

[Caller] Colonel Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Kasyanov, chief of a Border Troops Academy department.

[Nikolayev] Hello, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich. Why are you contacting me on this line?

[Caller] The thing is that I am doing a favor for our former colleagues from Chebarkul who telephoned me this morning. So this is kind of unofficial. Comrade Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Litvinenko, Gantimurov, Anatoliy Ivashkin, Filimonov, the colonel, and everyone else wish you a happy birthday and ask me to pass on their best wishes and that they are proud to have had the opportunity to serve with you.

[Nikolayev] Thank you.

[Caller] Hope you enjoy the upcoming celebration. All the best, good-bye.

[Caller] Comrade colonel general! I am calling from Akademgorodok, Novosibirsk. Can I ask you just one question, very briefly; I realize that many people are phoning in.

[Nikolayev] What is your forename, patronymic, and surname?

[Caller] Nikolay Vasilyevich Nikulin. This is my question. Why are the border guards on the border fighting with old weapons? I am concerned because I have some connection with this business....

[Nikolayev] Nikolay Vasilyevich, everything that is needed is now going there. Helicopters, guns, mortars, armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles — all this is in the border guards' arsenal. Incidentally, we are sending the newest resources there, including rocket launchers, antitank and antiaircraft systems, and mortars, which even the Army does not have yet.

[Caller] Thank you, Andrey Ivanovich, you have the respect of us Siberians!

[Nikolayev] Thank you for your kind words.

[Caller] Yulya Kaminskaya from Moscow. I would like to know whether it is proposed not to build our border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan but to move it nearer to Russian territory. How can we ensure that Russian border guards are not in another state, and is this possible?

[Nikolayev] Bearing in mind that border guards are protecting the entire Commonwealth's interests, as of today we are in the Tajik-Afghan sector of the border. If we now have to leave Tajikistan we will have to go to the border with Kazakhstan, although this is 7,500 km. The state does not have the financial, technical, or human resources to do this. You yourself are aware that there are vitally important Russian interests in this region — economic, political, and military. They are represented by Tajik territory on the border with Afghanistan. Besides, a large Russian diaspora lives in Tajikistan, and we must protect its interests.

[Caller] But will it not turn out that this is endless. That we are being drawn into a conflict to which no end is in sight. How many more of our young boys are going to die there...?

[Nikolayev] I think that yes, the fact that people are dying is terrible. But by carrying out our mission to guard the border we are precluding the possibility that the epicenter of these terrible events will shift to Russian territory.

[Caller] Andrey Ivanovich, good day, I am a Russian Army major.

[Nikolayev] Can you tell me your forename, patronymic, and surname?

[Caller] Ivan Vasilyevich, I do not want to give my surname. Andrey Ivanovich, when you left the Defense Ministry for the Border Troops you, as far as I know, took a large number of officers with you. Of course, border guards are paid more than Army personnel, but does it not prick your conscience that you have thereby wittingly or unwittingly weakened the Army?

[Nikolayev] First, I want to say that I personally did not take anybody with me, so Ivan Vasilyevich, your information is not entirely correct. We have not hindered the transfer to Border Troops of officers who were liable to be axed. Last year over 3,000 Russian Armed Forces officers came to us, and not just central apparatus workers, of course. Sailors, aircrew, rear services personnel, and technical specialists. I stress again: those liable to be axed.

Unless we preserve the officer corps right now we will lose everything. That is why I personally advocate the retention of officers in the structures of other forces which need cadres at a particular moment and which can provide them with a service life a sufficiently certain existence in this life.

[Caller] Andrey Ivanovich? This is Yuriy Borisovich. I am a military pensioner, I have the wonderful Russian surname of Baramykhin. First I would like to wish you well on the upcoming great celebration.

[Nikolayev] Likewise, Comrade Baramykhin.

[Caller] Please tell me, for your part can you have an impact on all these terrible crimes?

[Nikolayev] I think that not only can we have an impact on crime, we are also obliged to do so. I am referring to smuggling, illegal migration, the transportation of weapons, and the drugs trade, which yield massive income, precisely by operating across the border. That is why for our part we are doing and will continue to do everything necessary — both on land and, of course, on sea. Last year in the Far East alone we prevented losses of over 2 trillion rubles. Undoubtedly we also have an important role in coordinating the efforts of all ministries and departments. At the moment it so happens that there are several masters on the border. That must not happen. Therefore at our insistence a law was adopted which obliges us to coordinate the efforts of the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], GPK [State Border Committee], Federal Security Service, and Migration Service in ensuring border security. Although to be honest the work is proceeding with great difficulty, not all departments are prepared to hand over their powers to one pair of hands.

[Caller] Hello. Tamara Pavlovna Deryugina from Kursk. Andrey Ivanovich, please answer this. Currently my son is in Khorog. He has been on a three-month temporary duty assignment since 23 January. They put in an application to serve in the Caucasus region but straightaway they were sent from Voronezh to Tajikistan. I am now asking our chiefs here in Kursk: When will my son be home? Nobody can give a precise answer.

[Nikolayev] Do you mean not only your son but also the guys who are still serving there?

[Caller] There are eight men from Kursk there.

[Nikolayev] They will be home between 10 and 15 May. That is accurate, they will return. You already knew that, didn't you?

[Caller] Of course, but he is my only son.

[Nikolayev] Have a good holiday, and God grant that your son returns alive and well.

[Caller] Thank you. Good-bye, have a good holiday.

When the time allotted for the "Direct Line" had run out all the telephones fell silent as if on command, and only one continued to ring incessantly. Nikolayev's aide picked the receiver up, asked the caller to repeat something, and then went up to the commander in chief:

"Andrey Ivanovich, there's an officer from Moldova on the line... (name withheld for ethical reasons — editorial office) he says that he served with you and asks you to get in touch...."

"I know who it is, he was indeed once my deputy regimental commander. But I will not speak to him: By taking the oath to Moldova he betrayed not only his comrades but also his motherland," Nikolayev snapped.

Deutch Testimony at Senate Hearings Cited

*MM0905093295 Moscow TRUD in Russian
5 May 95 p 6*

[Report by Pavel Volpyanskiy under the "This Colorful World" rubric: "No Rest for Spies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I disagree with those who argue that with the end of the Cold War, clandestine collection of intelligence is no longer needed, because our most dangerous and formidable adversary, the Soviet Union, no longer exists." This was stated by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch at the hearings of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence which discussed his nomination for the post of CIA director.

Deutch cited possible major regional conflicts with North Korea, Iraq, Iran, and other "rogue" states, as well as between countries in the politically unstable Near East, as "significant" dangers to U.S. national security. He also mentioned the dangers which could ensue from the spread of weapons of mass destruction and modern methods of delivery of these weapons to unstable states that are hostile to the United States and to their neighbors, and the growth of terrorism, crime, and drug trafficking on an international scale.

"Finally, we must remember that Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union are just beginning down the road to democracy and market economies," Deutch noted. "At best, we must expect progress along this path to be halting and sometimes inconsistent."

Duma's Lukin Comments on NATO Expansion

*LD0805145195 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1251 GMT 8 May 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 8 (Interfax) — Chairman of the State Duma's International Affairs Committee Vladimir Lukin believes that "in no way" can NATO be allowed to expand "in its present form" to the east.

He has declared in an interview with Interfax that Russia would "react accordingly" to such an expansion, which, by his assumptions, will be matched "by the redeployment of the East European countries units from their western borders to eastern" frontiers.

"If the West seeks to create a European security system, it should negotiate with Russia, Lukin stressed. If the West wants to encircle Russia, that's their will. But they should realize herewith that Russia, too, will do what it deems necessary to guarantee its security in whatever may happen, including the worst scenarios."

He described this as a "very destructive idea that would lead to a cold war." "Moscow should make the West realize that if it wants collective security, Russia, as any state, has the right to build an individual and regional security, if there are partners for it. I think they will be found," Lukin remarked.

NATO, as he put it, has not undergone an evolution. In its old form, he added, "the North Atlantic Alliance is only needed for NATO's old bureaucracy, military and political."

West's 'Duplicity' in Former Yugoslavia Decried

*MM0905084695 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
6 May 95 p 7*

[Report by Yevgeniy Fadeyev: "Croatian Blitzkrieg"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Belgrade, 5 May — The paradox of the situation in the Balkans is that peace in Bosnia leads to war in Croatia! The prospects are even more "optimistic" today! The fierce clashes in Bosnia did not stop during the so-called cease-fire which expired during the night of 1 May, and are continuing now. Croatia has now seized the baton of bloody war. Incidentally, Croatia's provocative aggression against the Serb Krajina began the very hour that the cease-fire in Bosnia "ended." [passage omitted]

One final point. It is clear to the whole world today who the aggressor is. Even [Lord] Owen, cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, has urged those countries which "maintain close relations with Croatia to put pressure on Zagreb immediately so as to secure the return of the territories taken by force." But the duplicity and hypocrisy of the "peacemakers" continue. Washington and Bonn believe that the culprits are...the Serbs! Once again there are all kinds of threats and pressure — and that despite the columns of people rounded up and driven into the concentration camps. And once again there is the reminder that NATO exists and that its air forces could make another bombing strike against Serb positions.

So, there you have the "new political thinking" instilled in everyone which clearly suits Croatia's "new democracy."

Lech Walesa Accused of 'Political Adventurism'

*MM0905092995 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA
in Russian 5 May 95 p 2*

[Article by Aleksandr Oskin: "Why Does L. Walesa Need the Specter of the 'Russian Bear'? In Order To Stay in Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Relations between Poland and Russia, in the opinion of many Poles, are today in the most lamentable state of the entire postwar period.

Economic ties have been weakened. Cultural exchange has been broken off. The Russian language has fallen into disfavor. Russian periodicals have disappeared from the kiosks. The stores do not stock our goods. The numerous "peddlers" from the CIS countries provoke increasing annoyance. Young people study German, seeking to obtain work in the numerous offices and firms of the FRG.

Clawing their way out of poverty and totalitarianism, Poles have overcome the shock induced by the Balcerowicz therapy and find themselves at a crossroads: Where to go from here?

Whereupon, what should appear on the banks of the Vistula than the specter of the savage Russian bear, revived by the crazy men of politics. These people have begun trying to frighten Poland's Joe Public with the Kremlin's increasing aggression and Russia's imperial ambitions. Russia's policy is presented in a distorted form: After Chechnya, it is claimed, Yeltsin will immediately start on Poland. Every second politician is declaring his support for "the Chechen people's struggle for freedom and independence." Lech Walesa has decided not to go to Moscow for the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Victory. Premier Jozef Oleksy made an attempt to gloss over the embarrassment and promised to appear on Memorial Hill, but the president threatened to send him before a tribunal...!

In short, all the specters for whipping up anti-Russian feelings are present in Warsaw. And they serve a highly practical purpose — securing victory for L. Walesa at the forthcoming presidential elections.

In six months' time Poles will be faced with a choice. No, not between the 15 candidates for the supreme state post, but, effectively, between just two political currents — the party of war and the party of peace. For the victory of the first, an enemy is needed. Any enemy. But the bigger, the bloodier, and the nearer, the better. Hence the hysterical attempt to brainwash the man in the street with the myth of the new Russian threat.

Lech Walesa has been prompted toward energetic anti-Russian actions by the rapid decline of his popularity in the country and the strengthening position of the social democrats. The left-wing bloc has a majority in the Sejm, and Jozef Oleksy, a former Polish United Workers' Party voivodship committee first secretary, has been elected premier. Finally, the forecasts are not encouraging for former Solidarity leader in the presidential race.

The latest opinion polls showed that only 7 percent of the electorate are prepared to vote for Lech Walesa in the October election. The list of presidential candidates is topped by Aleksander Kwasniewski, parliamentary majority leader and former vice premier in the last communist government, now chairman of what is now called Social Democracy of the Polish Republic. Lech Walesa, alas, is only in fourth place.

So Mr Walesa needed the anti-Russian ideological attack as a weapon in the battle with his rivals. He knows that it is very easy to inflame anti-Russian sentiments in Poles, unlike hatred for Chinese or Mexicans. Our autocrats have on their consciences four divisions of Poland and the Katyn tragedy.... B. Yeltsin closed this problem only in 1992 by handing L. Walesa all the secret documents on Katyn and the Soviet-German pact of 1939.

To be fair, it should be noted that it is not only on the Vistula that people are hacking at the roots of good-neighborliness. Certain politicians, diplomats, and functionaries in Moscow have been willing to play up to the Polish crazies. There is no smoke without fire, as is well known, and it takes two to "polka...."

It would be a mistake to believe that the "war" and "peace" parties among the Poles correspond straightforwardly to "left" and "right." The whole trick lies in the fact that "hawks" and "doves" successfully nest on both sides of the state eagle. But Mr. Walesa is using the anti-Russian weapon not only and not so much against his traditional opponents — the left — as against the right or, to be more exact, the **new right**. It is they, his former comrades in arms, his cell mates from the times of martial law, veterans of the anti-Soviet front, who have betrayed the Solidarity leader.

The new right have long realized that Lech Walesa has played his part and no longer has anything to give the country.

During the years of his presidency L. Walesa has effectively remained alone. His intellectual comrades in arms and experts have been replaced by incompetent people thrown up by force of circumstance and sometimes, the Polish press writes, by light- fingered individuals. Now this horde is determined to win the presidential election at any price; indeed, this was the purpose of L. Walesa's scandalous statements about Chechnya, the 50th anniversary of the Victory, and the failure to punish Russian hooligans in Warsaw. The excessive hysteria over the problem of Poland's joining NATO falls into the same category.

The new right are consolidating their position. It is they, and not the "party" of Lech Walesa, who are the social democrats' main rivals. Jacek Kuron, who is popular from Solidarity times and has presidential aspirations, has united with Leszek Balcerowicz, father of the "Polish economic miracle."

It is this duo that represents the greatest danger to Walesa. However, the Great Electrician's course will be altered, no matter who wins the election. But this will not happen quickly or all at once.

Strange as it may seem, there still exists in Poland a serious advocate of strengthening good relations between our countries. And a completely unexpected one at that. It is the Polish church. I have spoken with many Roman Catholic priests, including some who only 10 years ago were bulwarks of anti-Sovietism: They are all for strengthening and developing equal and mutually advantageous relations with Russia.

Historically, the church has always played a stabilizing role in society, as custodian of national roots and culture. In the years of the battle against Hitlerism Polish priests often took the place of children on the execution block. The bustling politicians have never been distinguished by such readiness and self-sacrifice. I believe that in the present rupture in Polish-Russian relations the church's moral authority will again rise to the occasion.

There is no doubt that Lech Walesa will lose the "war" which he has launched. He is not the first, and will not be the last to do so. The real question is: At what cost? And how long will the consequences of this political adventurism have to be digested in Warsaw and Moscow?

Lukashenka Seeks Russia-Belarus 'Unification'

MM0805165395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 95 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Alyaksandr Lukashenka: Peoples of Belarus and Russia Want To Live as Single Family"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has received a Russian Federation delegation, which arrived in Minsk for the international practical conference "The Victory Over Fascism and the Future of Civilization." The delegation comprises veterans, historians, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union Petr Klimuk, chief of the Cosmonaut Training Center, and Hero of the Soviet Union Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman cosmonaut.

During a conversation with the visitors Alyaksandr Lukashenka set out his views on relations between the Belarusian and Russian states. According to him, the peoples of Belarus and Russia are ready to unite. Everything is now up to the politicians, whom these peoples will themselves sooner or later force to embark on such unification. But it is better to do this sooner, since the time factor is working against us. We must heed the voice of reason, cast aside political ambition, and resolutely renounce borders, duties, and customs houses, which upset the normal operation of our countries' economies. Otherwise, the Belarusian president said, the West will dismember us once and for all and turn us into its raw materials supplier. Belarus, which has preserved its strong industrial potential, is ready to saturate the Russian market with high-quality, cheap commodities. He said that the republic has taken an important step by removing all the customs barriers on the Belarusian-Russian border. "We will travel our route of the treaties with fraternal Russia honestly and all the way," Alyaksandr Lukashenka stressed.

Skrunda Explosion Could Affect Existing Radar

MM0905080195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 3 May 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Skrunda by A. Yakovlev, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yakovlev over video of Skrunda radar station] Tomorrow morning the Skrunda radar station or, more precisely, the new 20-story building housing the Russian radar station's reception antenna will be blown up without ever having been put into service. According to U.S. experts' calculations, the explosive placed on five floors will turn the part of the building which is above ground into a pile of ferro-concrete rubble in 12 seconds. The structure took five years to build and cost many millions of rubles at a time when the dollar exchange rate was 60 kopeks.

Less than a kilometer away the old Russian "Dnepr" radar station — a component of the integrated missile attack early warning system — continues to operate after almost 35 years of service. In accordance with a Russian-Latvian agreement, the installation will remain in operation until August 1998.

A few days ago a Russian Defense Ministry commission declared that the seismic wave caused by the explosion could adversely affect the functioning of the equipment at the existing station and lead to errors in the calculation of missile trajectories.

Various people and organizations actively opposed the demolition of the unique structure and advocated its use for peaceful purposes. However, the decision to destroy it was nonetheless taken. The Latvian side is determined to mark the fifth anniversary of the restoration of independence by demolishing the radar station. Meanwhile the pragmatical Americans are getting ready to count profits from scrap metal and to put down another milestone along the road of irrevocable geopolitical changes. [video shows building and surrounding area, operators and equipment at old Russian radar station, meeting]

Political Issues

Presidential Election Campaign Previewed

MM0905100295 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
5 May 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Viktor Trushkov: "May Day Columns With Sights Trained on the Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As was to be expected, the "leaders" of the two election associations appointed by the president were a long way form the May Day columns. A long way both literally and metaphorically. I. Rybkin demonstrated his international solidarity at Washington meetings with U.S. Vice President A. Gore, and members of the government and U.S. congressmen. V. Chernomyrdin was just as zealous in associating himself with the Russian Federation president, for which on the eve of May Day he publicly repealed the planned government session, replacing it with another session — of the expanded "politburo" of the "centrist-democratic" association formed on instructions from B. Yeltsin. But it is not the simulation of activity by the "leaders" which is of interest but the behavior of the missions ordered to march behind the "leaders." And here May Day put everything in its place.

According to the reports of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, mass meetings and demonstrations took place in 60 regional centers and other large cities. Taking part were at least 3 million demonstrators. That is twice more than at the 12 April "purely trade union" meetings which were instructed to level only economic demands. On May Day not one of the recorded demonstration was without political slogans. Nor was there one without demands such as: "Chernomyrdin's government must resign!" and "Let's have early presidential elections!" And how many more unrecorded meetings took place in small and medium cities and in rural population centers! And everywhere there were the same slogans. And so Russia before the elections has unambiguously voiced its attitude toward Chernomyrdin's bloc.

On the other hand last weekend in a number of regional administrations there were sessions at which people appointed from above created local departments of Chernomyrdin's association. Local bureaucrats everywhere joined his "bureau of oblast committees." But problems arose with the premier's right flank. "Yabloko," G. Yavlinskiy announced, has rolled away to the side. "Democratic Russia," according to G. Starovoytova, will also play its own game. Ye. Gaydar approves of the new bloc but is not joining it: He is afraid that his "Russia's Choice" will instantly be turned into a "stabilizer." His associate A. Chubays after attending a session of the premier's "politburo," approved the apathetic leader of his faction, announcing that he has not yet departed from "Russia's Choice." They say "friend Andrey" Kozyrev sent something similar from America. In general Chernomyrdin's right flank is based on the ministers of his own government. And his left flank is breaking down where the president's supporters end. S. Shakhray is convinced that if they scratch around the granaries (including the Russia's Choice granaries) and sweep the barns (for instance B. Fedorov's barn) then they will collect 30 percent of the electorate.

Let me recall that I. Rybkin, pleased at the president's instruction, stated in the heat of the moment that the two orthodox associations will collect at least 67 percent of votes at the elections. It emerges that to fulfill his pledge the speaker must cobble together an election bloc with the support of 37 percent of voters. But where to get them? Perhaps he learned during his present tour of the United States. It is not out of the question that he is pinning hopes on his own rich political experience: In contrast to primitive proteans he is a unique multiple machine operator in party terms: He has been a communist, socialists, and Agrarian party member and has now been appointed as an extreme right-winger in the left center. but May Day revealed that the speaker's former fellow party members resolutely reject the two- party venture in which he has become involved thanks to the president.

I. Rybkin has been stating that the Agrarian Party members will follow him. But M. Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, is of a different opinion. And here is a firm statement from N. Kharitonov, deputy chairman of the party's board: "We have a tested bloc.... It consists of the Communist Party of Russia, the Agrarian union, and the trade union of the agro-industrial complex. And if someone says that the Agrarian Party intends to join anyone, that is a great misconception."

To judge by their leaders' statements the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia and the Socialist Party ofd the Working People have refused to come under Rybkin's wing. A. Fedorova, leader of the "Women of Russia" association, is also avoiding the propresidential pseudo-left center bloc: "We are forming a bloc with our common sense. So I think that we have chances of proceeding as an independent movement." That is, once again, without Ivan Petrovich.

G. Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Committee, in response to the president's illusions of a bipartisan system in Russia, has called for the creation of an antipresidential election bloc of left-wing and left centrist forces. If you consider that Agrarian Party members, socialists, and trade unionists marched with the Communists at the demonstration, then this suggestion could be implemented.

Actually, to be honest, nothing unexpected happened on May Day. And I think that the president's advisers foresaw the pattern which has occurred. So I allow that they have a totally different aim. At the president's suggestion the leaders of the executive and legislative branches have been set against each other. And what if they begin to vie with each other in earnest: Rich experience of setting people against each other has been accumulated. But confrontation between the branches of power is inevitable even if both appointees heap compliments on each other because in the regions each is doomed to rely on "his own" structures. It emerges that the conflict between the "executives" and the "legislators" all the way along the vertical power structure was planned more precisely than the State Planning Committee directives. Then the country will move not toward party elections but toward the next constitutional crisis. perhaps the initiators of the Chernomyrdin- Rybkin bipartisan system are dreaming of this crisis? But meanwhile the first move has been made in the planned game of many moves....

Text of FITUR, RUIP, Realists' Bloc Statement

MM0805194795 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 5 May 95 p 1

[Statement by electoral bloc of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, the Russian United Industrial Party, and the "Union of Realists": "Neither for the Right Nor the Left but for Common Sense and a Decent Life for Russian People — That Is What the New Electoral Bloc of Trade Unions, Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and Realists Is Prepared To Fight for in the Upcoming Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guided by a common desire to conduct socially oriented economic reforms and to secure the rebirth of national industry and the agro-industrial complex as the foundations for boosting the economy and enhancing the population's well-being, the strengthening of a unified democratic, rule-of-law Russian state, and the flourishing of its multiethnic culture, its very rich scientific sector, and its mighty scientific and technical potential, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], the Russian United Industrial Party [RUIP], and the "Union of Realists" Sociopolitical Movement, conclude the following agreement:

1. The sides declare their intention to create a single electoral bloc for participation in the 1995 elections. To this end they are embarking on the elaboration of a platform for the future bloc, aiming to conduct a coordinated policy aimed at strengthening the constitutional system in the country and creating a genuinely democratic rule-of-law state. They intend to implement joint measures to develop the national economy and a system of social partnership, to ensure extensive rights for people of labor and the entire population, and to take action to implement a strong social policy, develop the education system, health protection, and science and culture, and intensify law and order and the fight against crime and corruption.

2. The aim of active participation in the elections will be the election to the organs of state and local power of qualified, enterprising people responsible for their country's future and representing industry and the countryside, entrepreneurs, the scientific-technical and creative intelligentsia, workers in the banking and financial sphere, students, and servicemen — all those who have an interest in reviving the national economy and who will spare no effort to strengthen statehood and true democracy, to form a rule-of-law state, and to carry out the main aim of the electoral association.

3. To conduct campaign work FITUR is creating the "Trade Unions of Russia" electoral association, and the RUIP — the "Revival of Russia's Industry" electoral association, which, together with the "Union of Realists," will form the basis of the organizational structure of the future electoral bloc.

The parties to the agreement reached agreement that the future electoral bloc would be open to parties, movements, organizations, and Russian citizens who share the electoral platform and aim of the unified electoral bloc being created.

[Signed] M. Shmakov, chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia

V. Shcherbakov, chairman of the Russian United Industrial Party
Yu. Petrov, chairman of the "Union of Realists" Sociopolitical Movement.

Legal Base To Be Systematized, Computerized

MM0905082195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 May 95 First Edition p 9

[Undated interview with Vladimir Nekrasov, executive secretary of the Interim Commission for the Preparation and Promulgation of the Russian Federation Code of Laws, by Eduard Babanin under "Commentary" rubric: "The Shape of the Russian Federation Code of Laws"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Justice Ministry and the Russian Federation Presidential Administration for State Law have been instructed by the Russian Federation Presidential Directive of 17 April 1995 to draw up a draft Federal Law "On the Russian Federation Code of Laws" and to present it to the Russian Federation president in May 1995 for submission to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly.

Vladimir Nekrasov, executive secretary of the Interim Commission for the Preparation and Promulgation of the Russian Federation Code of Laws, comments on this document.

[Nekrasov] The huge amount of work required to regulate legislation and to stabilize and consolidate the constitutional rule of law was initiated by Presidential Edict No. 94 "On Preparation for the Promulgation of the Code of Laws of the Russian Federation," signed 6 February 1995. The present directive acts as a signal to speed up the work that is already under way.

Such attention on the part of the president underlines the fact that preparation for the promulgation of the Code of Laws is becoming the main thrust in the work of systematizing and organizing the Russian Federation's body of law. This is due to the pressing need of the present day: The code will, after all, reflect the bounds of state regulation in all spheres of social development.

Putting all legislation into a logically ordered system and removing inconsistencies and disparities within it will enhance the effectiveness of the organs of state power and all officials. The code will afford the opportunity, should such need arise, for literally every citizen of the state to familiarize himself very quickly not only with the laws in any area of legislation but also the statutory instruments which have a direct bearing on human rights, the economic and social development of society, science, culture, and so forth.

At the first stage it is intended to draw up an inventory of all federal laws and other legal acts which are in force and have not been formally repealed in order to compile a chronological collection of them on machine-readable media. The most advanced techniques will be used in this work, eliminating routine tasks.

A standard legal data bank will be set up at the same time. It will include the unique archive of acts of legislation and other acts adopted by the former USSR from its formation, the acts of the Russian Federation, and the historical archives of acts adopted by Russia since the middle of the last century. The magnitude of the work ahead is enormous. Suffice it to say that the total archival stock exceeds 3 million items. Moreover, it shows a constant increase of approximately 35,000 items per year.

It has already been decided that the code will not include acts which have effectively lapsed, acts which are of a provisional nature or applied only on a single occasion, or acts affecting individual enterprises, organizations, and institutions. And what point is there, for example, in including acts relating to the level of the wholesale or retail prices of goods or charges for services, purchase prices of agricultural produce, or the amount workers' and employees' wages?

It is far more important to determine the blueprint of the code and the principles governing the formation of its material, to designate its basic sections, and to carry out their detailed subdivision into chapters, paragraphs, and so forth. All this will, of course, clearly be correlated with the general legal classification system for areas of legislation confirmed by the Russian presidential edict of 16 December 1993. But, I repeat, this will happen after the completion of the first stage of work — the drawing up of an inventory of legislation in force.

Our work must not fail to take account of the fact that in the Russian Federation today we have a new Constitution whose foundations are characteristic of modern states and a system of legislation which is geared toward incorporating advanced legal thinking. It is the aim of our work to render the Code of Laws effective.

We are thus structuring our work as follows: At the initial stage we separate out full information on existing laws, Russian presidential edicts, and Russian Federation Government decrees so as to facilitate the main goal of democratizing society and building a state based on law rather than force.

Activity of Foreign Religious Groups Discussed

MM0905102795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 95 p 4

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Kostromina: "Authorities Concerned by Activity of New Religious Organizations in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The furor over "Aum Shinrikyo" has evidently prompted the executive to pay closer attention to the problem of the activity of foreign religious organizations in Russia. A session of the Russian Federation Government Commission for Questions of Religious Associations held in Moscow Thursday [4 May] discussed the legal aspects of the activity of new religious movements in Russia.

As a result of the discussion the Ministry of Justice was instructed to complete the elaboration and harmonization of a draft statute "On the Procedure for the

Opening of Branches of Foreign Noncommercial Organizations in the Russian Federation and Their Activity" and submit it for ratification by the Russian Federation Government before 1 June. This document stipulates a standard procedure and conditions for opening missions of foreign foundations and social and religious organizations in Russia.

The commission also deemed it necessary for work to be completed within one month on a draft federal law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" and submit it for examination by the Russian Federation Government. If approved, it will be submitted by way of legislative initiative to the Duma.

The commission recommended setting up an academic institute of religion to study the problems of relations between church and state. The Russian Ministry of Health and Medical Industry will be instructed to organize scientific research into the brainwashing methods practiced by certain religious organizations and their effect on citizens' health. The need to set up a medical rehabilitation center to offer specialized help to sufferers was recognized.

The question of the fulfillment of the Russian Federation Government decree "On the Procedure for Handing Over Religious Buildings and Other Property of Religious Designation to Religious Associations" was also raised at the session. According to information of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, 201 buildings of the 340 architectural monuments of religious designation were handed over in the past year. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property was instructed to complete the juridical formalulation of the handover of religious buildings and other property of religious designation before 1 August.

One further piece of news. It is proposed to fund the preservation of historical and cultural monuments used by religious organizations of the Chechen Republic from the federal budget.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Army Paper on Grachev 6 May News Conference

MM0805181295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Russian Army Celebrates Third Anniversary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Understandably, the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory overshadows other dates and events. However, they should not be forgotten either. Thus it emerges that the Russian Army is now celebrating its foundation — its third anniversary. A news conference given by Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, was devoted to this event.

During a brief introductory speech the defense minister noted that, despite the Russian Army's comparatively short existence, it has had to perform major tasks in difficult conditions. And the main result is that we have nonetheless succeeded in creating the Armed Forces of Russia, which are continuing to perform their main roles of ensuring international security and the security of the Commonwealth countries. The defense minister also noted that these years have also seen a change in the complexion of the Armed Forces. New groupings have been set up and many military districts have been strengthened. Mindful of the scale of the tasks being tackled by the Armed Forces at the current time, mobile forces — the basis of which comprises airborne troops — have been created in the army and are continuing to develop. The defense minister said that in this connection he recently signed a directive on the further reform of the Airborne Troops.. They are to be equipped with the latest equipment and brought up to full strength.

At the same time the defense minister pointed out that Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces remain the chief deterrent factor. Training drills and exercises have shown that the Strategic Nuclear Forces maintain a sufficient level of combat readiness to ensure the reliable defense of the state's national interests.

The defense minister devoted particular attention to the continuing reform of the organizational and manning structure [organizatsionno-shtatnaya struktura]. As you know, over the past few years over 700,000 servicemen and 45,000 pieces of combat hardware have been redeployed back to Russia from the countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth states. No other country has experienced a troop redeployment on such a scale — or moreover within such a short time frame and given the considerable financial difficulties.

The Russian Army's peacekeeping function was discussed separately. "We have a special role and a special geopolitical position," the defense minister stressed. "Our troops are stationed in many seats of tension and we are glad to note that their actions meet with the understanding and support of local organs of power."

At the same time it must be noted that the Russian Armed Forces are experiencing countless difficulties primarily in connection with the country's economic position. Among them Army Gen. Pavel Grachev once again ranked in first place the problem of funding. The second, equally important problem is that of providing the army with the latest combat hardware and arms. There are also many problems with the manning of units and subunits. The law adopted recently, the minister stressed, by and large enables this task to be performed. There is hope that by the fall the Armed Forces will be at 80-85 percent of their full strength.

Attention was also devoted to the problem of the prestige of military service. In the opinion of Army Gen. Pavel Grachev, the moral and ethical points of reference in society are currently changing. Such concepts as patriotism and loyalty to the Fatherland must be the main, determining concepts.

During the news conference, naturally, questions were asked about the current situation in Chechnya. Army Gen. Pavel Grachev once again reminded journalists of their responsibility for providing correct, objective coverage of the federal troops' actions. This particularly applies to reports of the scale of losses which the Russian Army is incurring in Chechnya. He cited specific figures. Since the beginning of the conflict 1,375 enlisted men, warrant officers, and officers have been killed and 3,872 wounded. To date, 245 men are listed as missing and 86 Russian servicemen are prisoners of war. The defense minister stressed that these are figures for the entire combined group of forces operating in Chechnya.

When asked by your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent about troop morale Army Gen. Grachev said that changes for the better are in evidence. Officers and warrant officers have finally been able to organize normal combat training. Another important result is the fact that the command personnel have put aside political debate and gotten down to the specific business at hand. There are also real changes in the attitude taken by the heads of the local administrations to the troop units in their administrative areas. There is not a single administration head who does not know which troops are in his "home" area and how many. "They often help us to tackle many problems, primarily in the social sphere."

While noting the positive changes in the Russian Army the defense minister nevertheless emphasized that by no means everything has yet been accomplished. But the mood of servicemen and the increasingly palpable support for the Army from the state enable one to hope that all these difficulties will be overcome. The Army in turn has already proved that it can perform any task in defense of the country's national interests.

General Lebed on Politics, Personal Views

95UM0427A Moscow SOBESEDNIK in Russian No. 16, Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed, deputy commander of the Russian Airborne Forces, by Vitaliy Knyazev: "General Lebed: A Cat When Backed Into a Corner Becomes a Tiger"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Lebed, Aleksandr Ivanovich, Russian military leader. Born 20 April 1950 in Novocherkassk in Rostov Oblast to a workers family. Graduated from Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School. In CPSU until August 1991. Served as commander of a platoon of pilot cadets and a company of pilot cadets under the leadership of P.S. Grachev, commanded the airborne battalion of Soviet forces in Afghanistan from 1981 through 1982.**

Graduated from the Military Academy imeni Frunze. From 1985— commander of the Tula Airborne Regiment, in February 1991 appointed deputy commander of the Russian Airborne Forces... (P.S. Grachev was commander at the time).

[Knyazev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, you have called August 1991 your great disenchantment with life. Were you disenchanted by the outcome?

[Lebed] Yes. The difference between what was done then and what could have been done was too great. It is incomparable. There was a burst of wonderful human enthusiasm, but it was squelched and everything went back to the way it was before; things dropped even lower, and now a social explosion can be predicted with a fair amount of accuracy. And it will be what Pushkin called a "Russian rebellion, senseless and merciless." This scenario for the development of events is likely.

[Knyazev] Can it be avoided? If so, how?

[Lebed] This can be decided only by collective reason. We have plenty of bright people. There is an awareness of this among the most intellectually developed, but so far we see passivity, and many intelligent people are being driven away from politics. They say that politics is a dirty business and they do not want to dirty their hands with it. But some of the great ones have said: "If you do not want to get involved in politics, then politics will involve you." And it is involving us.... Crushing our bones, emptying our pockets, driving us to poverty, to despair, producing homeless, orphaned, impoverished, despairing people. And this dark mass of humanity could ultimately bury the state. A cat driven into a corner becomes a tiger....

[Knyazev] What has linked you so tightly to Grachev? The leadership, who valued you as a team, or Grachev, who valued you personally?

[Lebed] I was a third-year student at the school and was deputy commander of the platoon which Lieutenant Grachev came to command. After I graduated from school, the two best officers from the class remained at the school and I, already a lieutenant, went to command the platoon under Senior Lieutenant Grachev.... I went to Afghanistan as a major and battalion commander, and suddenly I learned that the deputy commander of the regiment was Lieutenant Colonel Grachev....

[Knyazev] And how did the meeting go? Like in a movie?

[Lebed] We have always had good working relations, but I do not claim to have a friendship with Grachev, and I never did....

[Knyazev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, the dynamics of your brilliant military career changed after the August putsch. Grachev became minister, and you—commander of the Army, although logically you should have been commander of the Air Force. In principle this is means being out of favor. How did this happen to you? Did you show too much independence? Did you behave incorrectly during the putsch? Were you disenchanted with Grachev?

[Lebed] During the August events, the White House and the president were the least of my concerns. I had to avoid provocation and bloodshed.... I described all these events in my book entitled "The Spectacle Was Called a PUTSCH." I was ordered to take the battalion and organize the protection and defense of the building of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Without any details. The battalion arrived there and was located on the embankment. I did not know our assignment, the battalion commander did not know, there was a crowd surrounding the battalion. The men were confused, people were grumbling at them and cursing them. Everyone was nasty.... I did not defend the White House, and I refused the status of its defender in September 1991....

Since July 1992—commander of the 14th Russian Army in the Dniester Region. A proponent of severe military methods of resolving political conflicts in relations among former USSR republics. Calls himself a "statist," sympathizes with the Cossacks, and is in favor of forming Cossacks into airborne forces. He has been awarded a number of orders and medals, including the Order of the Red Star for combat in Afghanistan. Married, has two sons and a daughter.

[Knyazev] Is everything in this file correct?

[Lebed] The wording regarding severe military methods of resolution is questionable.... Let us think.... Some kind of sluggish war, or a not-so-sluggish one, is going on. Every day 10 people are killed. In 100 days 1,000 are killed. So it would be better to solve the problem all at once and lose 100 people, and 500 would remain alive. I am in favor of such radical solutions to the problem: You pound your fist on the table one time, the pieces fly, and the problem is handled. I have tested this theory in practice—there has been no war here for two and a half years. Therefore, of course, I am in favor of severe but well-considered solutions, because you have to strike twice—once on the head and once on the lid of the coffin. If you have an army like that, it will be respected. What kind of a war is it when they beat down only one gate and they only hit you? Nobody wants to fight that way. But that is one part of the question. When it comes to the former USSR republics, everything is more difficult.... We went to Georgia and Azerbaijan and Lithuania.... Where are they, all these places where we went, where we shook our fists? They have all backed off! This is the best way of severing relations—go into any outlying republic with machine guns and tanks. That does not do any good. Further. I would never be so vain as to call myself a "statist." But I do indeed sympathize with the Cossacks. I think we must unite the ancient martial glory of the Cossacks with the young but no less martial glory of the airborne forces. We must call into the Army people who have war in their blood, in their genes, and then it will be a regular host. Because it is an abnormal situation when it takes three people to look after one soldier to make sure he does not cut something off, that he does not desert, or that his mama does not take him away. The Army should have the type of soldier Mama will not steal.

[Knyazev] But the Cossacks are also known for their penchant for lawlessness and anarchy....

[Lebed] There are Cossacks and there are people dressed up like Cossacks. Regular Cossacks can organize themselves in a regular way, and they themselves will straighten the others out.

[Knyazev] And during the war what kind were they, regular or the kind who were just dressed like Cossacks?

[Lebed] There were all kinds here.

[Knyazev] I am told that in Afghanistan there was a time when you were counted as dead. Is that true?

[Lebed] One idiot clerk in an order wrote "deceased" instead of "departed." This nonsense was immediately conveyed to my wife by military telegram. And for three weeks she thought she was a widow and waited for the official announcement. I arrived instead, and she turned gray. She was a widow a second time on 20 August 1991 when for reasons that are unclear to this day the mass media put out a report that I had blown my brains out.

[Knyazev] Do you consider it permissible for an officer to blow his brains out? Like Pugo, for example?

[Lebed] Yes. This step can and should be taken, and not out of weakness, but out of strength. For example, when there is a choice of shooting yourself in the head or being taken prisoner. Unequivocally, the choice should be to shoot yourself. Pugo did it out of strength, all his ideals had collapsed under him, although this issue is in question—information has appeared to the effect that he did not do it himself.

[Knyazev] Is it possible to restore the "honor of the Russian officer" now?

[Lebed] It is quite possible. To do this, every officer must have the State behind him.

[Knyazev] I remember well the broadcast of the session of the Supreme Council of the Dniester Region, where you made a show of walking out of the hall.

[Lebed] That was in October '93.

[Knyazev] What was the reason for that?

[Lebed] In principle I am against intervention in the internal affairs of Russia, regardless of where it may come from. Then there was intervention from authorized representatives of the Dniester Region in these same internal affairs.

[Knyazev] What form did the intervention take?

[Lebed] Armed people were sent to Moscow, and a fairly large number of them—according to various figures, from 70 to 100 people. I worded this issue very bluntly. And they turned this session of the Supreme Council into a show with the presentation of documents saying that one was having medical treatment, another was sitting at home with his sick mother, and so forth. I turned in my deputy mandate and no longer have anything to do with this thoroughly false and criminal organ. They have turned the Dniester Region into a zone of irresponsibility. They have opened the region up to any extremists, either right or left, although now you cannot figure out where they put them all. Various boys from the underground rule here, since President Smirnov is always either drunk or hunting. All are drawn here, it is like a hideout where they come for food and drink and tender, loving care.

[Knyazev] Local people have told me that life is now worse in the Dniester Region than it is in Ukraine, and that emotionally people are ready to join Moldova, forgetting the war they have been through. Is that really true?

[Lebed] On a teacher's wages you can buy 1 kilogram of meat.... They have nothing here, no medicine, no antibiotics, no bandages. They have no novocaine! There are cases where people operate without anesthesia! Can you imagine such a thing?

[Knyazev] A nightmare.... But what will happen when the Army leaves here?

[Lebed] An agreement on the withdrawal of the 14th Army was signed on 21 October of last year. In the 23d and last point of this agreement it is written that it will take effect the moment the parties to the agreement complete all the necessary intragovernmental procedures. For Russia this means ratification of the agreement in the State Duma. And I do not think the Duma will provide this ratification.

[Knyazev] Would you like to run for Duma?

[Lebed] I do not know. I think the Duma is a fairly submissive organ, it does not decide anything. There are many intelligent people there and many good speakers, but you do not see a lot of statesmen there.

[Knyazev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, I was extremely surprised to learn that you live in the officers' billets.

[Lebed] Why?

[Knyazev] I would have thought that an Army commander could count on housing, even if temporary, but with a separate entrance....

[Lebed] My deputies and the division commander and all the rest of them live there....

[Knyazev] I understand. Apparently your wife has long been accustomed to such a camp life. And where do you spend your vacation?

[Lebed] At home, in Novocherkassk. My mother, who has been left alone, lives there. And I cannot take her anywhere. Moreover she categorically rejects my Gypsy way of life, as she calls it: now in Tula, now in Tiraspol, now in Ryazan, now in Afghanistan....

[Knyazev] And the children? Are yours already grown?

[Lebed] They are. My son lives in Moscow, my daughter in Tula, and the youngest, he is already 16 years old, is at school in Suvorov.

[Knyazev] You must have married very young.

[Lebed] When I was 21 and at the university.

[Knyazev] What feelings are evoked when you recall your childhood? Judging from the fact that you were born in 1950, you must have been a witness to the shooting up of the demonstration in Novocherkassk....

[Lebed] We were sitting in a chestnut tree, and then a round of fire from an automatic weapon hit the people who were sitting above me and below me. I jumped down from the tree by myself and without getting a running start I jumped over such a high wall that to this day I am surprised whenever I walk past it. That was on 1 June, the Day of Protection of Children, in 1962....

[Knyazev] And why did you go there?

[Lebed] It was normal childhood curiosity. My mother locked me in and I crawled out through the window on the street, and so forth....

[Knyazev] And how did you feel about the Army after that? Did it not terrify you?

[Lebed] It was not the Army that did that. The soldiers of the garrison who were brought out into the street, when given the order to fire, they did so at a 45 degree angle. In this connection I recall that some general committed suicide because of the order to shoot at people, and the district chief of staff refused to obey this order and was discharged.... Then they removed the soldiers from the street. The crowd was glad: We had won. And after that, one or two echelons of domestic forces came from Rostov; there they were with their red shoulder boards, and they shot everyone. Therefore, even at that time, the Army did not evoke any negative emotions; they acted extremely correctly and I would say nobly.

[Knyazev] Are you familiar with the feeling of despair, and if so when did you last experience it?

[Lebed] I am not subject to that feeling. There are no impossible tasks. There are no hopeless situations. One must think.

[Knyazev] Do you think that a person should not give in to feelings?

[Lebed] I do not think so, I know so, and I am sure of that.

[Knyazev] Are you familiar with the feeling of love?

[Lebed] Yes.

[Knyazev] Are you satisfied with your children, or will you answer this question as Sergey Mikhalkov did: "Do you know any parents who are satisfied with their children?"

[Lebed] I wanted to say something like that.... How can you be satisfied here: It is purely a problem of life—my son graduated from the university as a cybernetician. He began his studies in a Soviet institution and finished in I do not know what kind of university, and now he is looking for work. First he goes to work in a place and he cannot fit in.... What kind of feeling should that evoke? Satisfaction?

[Knyazev] Ordeals.

[Lebed] Yes, I have had my own ordeals. My youngest put out a fire in school and got hit by some kind of gases, and now he has health problems....

[Knyazev] The youngest probably intends to join the airborne too.

[Lebed] I have never put pressure on him and do not intend to. A person must choose his own path in life. Romanticism always comes at first and then it turns into some more stable feeling. But this is not even romanticism but work which, in spite of all the numerous deprivations, gives you deep satisfaction. Constantly reaching beyond yourself.... This is not given to everyone, and not everyone likes it. You have to love it....

[Knyazev] It has seemed to me that there is a certain reticence in your nature. Is that from caution, or is it innate?

[Lebed] There is a saying: "Think before you speak and do not say everything you think."

[Knyazev] Since you put it that way, is it acquired? During school, during the service?

[Lebed] During life.

[Knyazev] You used to smoke all the time, and I do not recall a single photograph in which you did not have a cigarette. And now I see that you have quit smoking. Are you exercising your will power? Is there a borderline between will and obstinacy?

[Lebed] Obstinacy is a natural quality, but will is acquired.

[Knyazev] But are you a stubborn person?

[Lebed] To a certain degree—yes. But it would be more correct to say that I am firm.

[Knyazev] What is the difference?

[Lebed] If I believe in something and am profoundly convinced, even it does not coincide with public opinion in all respects, I will firmly defend this position, regardless of what it might cost me. But obstinacy—that is something uncontrolled, frequently it has no position, and a person can simply get carried away by it.

[Knyazev] Aleksandr Ivanovich, although you are a long way from Moscow, or perhaps this is why, you are always being besieged by journalists. I am the third one today. Foreigners especially like to come and see you. What do they ask you about most often?

[Lebed] Whether I like Pinochet....

[Knyazev] And what is your answer?

[Lebed] I answer that the so-called bloody dictator Pinochet during the 15 years of his rule raised Chile's economy, peacefully and smoothly transferred the power to the civilian government, and quietly receded onto the sidelines. But at the same time he can also be charged with the death of approximately 3,000 people.... We sometimes kill more in a day. And therefore I strongly doubt that he really was a bloody dictator. He simply used common sense, and he was a strict and sometimes cruel statesman. The second question is whether I would like to be a Russian de Gaulle. And the Japanese sent me a collection of questions. The first: whether I want to be president, the second: If I become president will I give them the Kuril Islands.... I told them to go to....

[Knyazev] Well then I will ask you whether you want to be president of Russia. Will you not answer anyway?

[Lebed] I will not answer.

[Knyazev] Recently I heard that several American universities had invited you to deliver lectures. Is that true? Did they stipulate the subjects of the lectures?

[Lebed] There was such a conversation. But I briefly explained to them that to a certain extent I am not a person who is free to do as he chooses and the question of visiting or not visiting the United States is out of my control and depends on a decision of the minister of defense or the Supreme Commander. If they consider it possible to send me there, I will go. And I can deliver lectures on any subject. They just need to tell me ahead of time and give me time to prepare....

[Knyazev] Do you have anything in the works?

[Lebed] I recently finished writing a book. It is almost 500 pages long. It is entitled "I Hurt for the Country," perhaps somewhat pretentiously. Life has turned out so that I have been lucky enough, if I can put it that way, to participate in many extraordinary events. I was in Afghanistan, I was in Tbilisi, I was in Baku three times, I went to Moscow twice—in September 1990 and August 1991, I was shoved out here, to the Dniester Region, and I have seen all these conflicts from the inside, their dynamics and the results of failure to take measures or taking them too late.... And I have tried to tell all this. I have also articulated several thoughts regarding questions that interest many people. I do not claim to have the final truth, I want to publish this book and call for a dialogue.

[Knyazev] When, in your view, will a real national leader appear in Russia?

[Lebed] If you are hinting about myself, I have never had any desire to be the savior of the nation.

[Knyazev] Do you believe any of the people who are now in power?

[Lebed] No.

Yeltsin Edict on Service for Veterans Published

MM0905091295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 95 p 1

["Edict of the Russian Federation President No. 437 on the State Service for Veterans' Affairs," signed by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 3 May 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the aim of implementing the Federal Law "On Veterans," I decree:

1. It is hereby established that federal executive organs and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components are charged with exercising the functions of a state service for veterans' affairs.

2. The Russian Federation Government is to resolve within one month the issue of structural and organizational backup for the implementation of the provisions of the Federal Law "On Veterans," charging the Russian Federation Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population with the duties of the coordination and methodical support of this activity.

3. In order to implement the Federal Law "On Veterans" the Russian Federation Government and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components are to elaborate and establish within the limits of their jurisdiction a procedure for involving organs of local self-government in the performance of the functions of the state service for veterans' affairs.

4. Federal executive organs and the executive organs of the Russian Federation components, in implementing measures for the social protection of veterans, are to insure that veterans' public associations are brought into this work.

5. This edict enters into force from the day of its publication.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, the Kremlin
3 May 1995
No. 437

Veterans Issue Appeal Over Rejection of Wage Hike

MM0905091095 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 4 May 95 p 1

[Undated "Appeal by Moscow's Great Patriotic War, Labor, and Army Veterans to State Duma Deputies and the Federation Council," signed by Golodova and 41 others]

[FBIS Translated Text] To State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko

Mr. Chairmen!

Gentlemen Deputies!

The other day the president rejected the Law on Increasing the Minimum Wage and before that the law on increasing pensions. You — our elected representatives — lacked the bravery and firmness to speak out for tens of millions of poor and unfortunate fellow citizens.

This minimum of 54,000 rubles [R] that never was is a vandalistic mockery of the creature that goes under the name of Man. Today, compared with preperestroyka times bread is 7,000 times dearer, potatoes are 18,700 times dearer, a school exercise book is 8,000 times dearer, a medicinal mustard poultice 28,000 times dearer, and so on, while the maximum pension and the average wage have increased by a factor of only 1,200. The uncontrolled, unrestricted increase in prices continues. Prices went up 50 percent In January-February alone.

Today a pensioner's daily ration, consisting of half a kilogram of bread costing R1,300, a kilogram of half-rotten potatoes at R1,875, half a liter of milk at R1,500, a 50-gram slice of fat-free and meat-free salami at R800, a single egg at R400, 30 grams of **imported** butter, and three glasses of tea, costs R8,000, or R240,000 per month. And this is without meat, fish, cabbage soup, porridge, and many other products needed to sustain life.

Payments for a two-room apartment, municipal services, and a telephone total over R70,000 a month. Over R300,000 is needed for the miserly ration and housing alone. This is without expenditure on clothing, footwear, transport, medicines, medical services, and many other things. For funeral services alone the bastards are charging up to R1.5 million.

Is this not barbarism, gentlemen? The law on the R54,000 minimum rejected by the president and you is not a subsistence or even a pre-fatal minimum but a last-day minimum. Answer this: How can a person live on your minimum?

Do you have fathers, mothers, children? Do they have a future? How can you look your relatives, friends, and unfortunate voters in the eye?

We do not propose to describe in full the horrifying disaster into which you have led your people! Those unworthy to call themselves Men and Citizens are making a fortune out of robbing most of the people, rampant greed , and blood. But you continue to observe all this without taking any substantial action.

If you have any consciousness or shred of conscience or honor and still consider yourselves to be the sons of your people and your Fatherland, ponder this in the silence of the Duma: What is to be done?

We do not intend to beg you to stop the vandalism, reduce prices, halt the robbery and killings, or reduce rent. All this is pointless while the presidential system and regime exist.

Neither do we intend to get down on our knees to beg for charity from barbarians.

WE ARE NOT SLAVES! We demand a change of rulers, a change of system, and a change of policy!

If you do not do this, as we die we will curse not only you but also all your descendants for generations to come.

Do you really think that you will profit by the sufferings and deaths of your citizens — grandfathers, fathers, and mothers?!

Conscience is each person's God. We urge you to heed it. We await a reply in the form of deeds, not promises.

[Signed] On behalf of labor, war, Army, and Navy veterans, on behalf of the citizens of Russia (Housing Project No. 6, Taganskiy Rayon, Moscow): Golodova, Punkin, Panova, Zaytseva — 41 signatures in all.

Defense Industry Hurt by Lack of State Contracts

LD0805152395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 8 (Interfax) — Munitions plants have so far got no state orders, Gennadiy Voronin, deputy chairman of the State Defence Industry Committee has reported to Interfax.

According to him, the complete draft of a program of state contracts for 1995 will most likely be ready later this month, even though the defence industry expected it from the Federal Economics Ministry in April.

Voronin noted that the lack of state contracts makes things still worse for the munitions plants. The government owes 1.75 trillion rubles to the industry where workers have been without pay for 2-4 months.

In March, average monthly pay in the industry was as little as 243,000 rubles whereas in the national economy this indicator equalled 320,000 rubles. The lowest wages, averaging 175,000 rubles, were registered in computers making.

Voronin blames the current plight of the once mighty military-industrial complex on "the thoughtless program of conversion", carried out in Russia since 1992 and in particular "on the relentless reduction of production volumes."

By his data, production in the defence sector dropped by nearly 30 percent in the first quarter of 1995 as compared with the same period last year.

Murmansk Shipyard Suspends Repairs to Warships

MM0905075695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 3 May 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Murmansk by G. Smirnova, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Smirnova] Because of persistent non-payment of wages, workers at Murmansk's Sevmorput Plant have suspended repair work on the heavy aircraft carrying cruisers Admiral Kuznetsov and Admiral Gorshkov and an amphibious warfare ship. The shipyard workers were forced to take these extreme steps because, over the past few months, the command of the Northern Fleet has failed to find an acceptable solution for clearing the debt for work which has been carried out.

The workers make no mention of a deadline by which the debt must be cleared. They have come to realize that their problems and despair are of no interest to the leadership of the Ministry of Defense or the command of the country's Navy.

Doubts About Nuclear Icebreaker Fleet's Future

MM0905075195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 3 May 95

[Report from Murmansk "Vesti" video newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Smirnova] The nuclear icebreaker is 20 years old. It has clocked up 19 Arctic navigation seasons and hundreds of thousands of miles of voyages through the ice during which it convoyed thousands of ships.

Japanese, U.S., and Finnish seamen and scientists have expressed great interest in the unprecedented experience of our icebreaker crews. In our own homeland the attitude toward these unique ships is less than cool. Despite paying lip service to support for our nuclear icebreaker fleet, the Russian Government is allocating little money for this purpose. Furthermore, these payments are never on time. Only around 1 billion of the 7.5 billion rubles promised has been received this year. This is why it is still an open question whether the Arktika will be plying the Arctic Route, at least by August 1995. At the height of the navigation season its assistance in the high latitudes will be urgently needed.

Federal Assembly

Council Rejects Black Sea Fleet Moratorium

LD0505132695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, May 5 (Interfax) — The Russian Federation Council rejected the bill "On a moratorium on the unilateral reduction of the Black Sea Fleet", endorsed by the State Duma on April 7.

Only 28 members of the Federation Council voted in favor of the bill whose endorsement requires 90 votes.

The bill was voted down on advice from the Federation Council's security and defense committee which feels, according to its chairman Petr Shirshov, that the new piece of legislation "contradicts the Russian-Ukrainian treaties and agreements of the past three years."

The bill called for a moratorium on the unilateral reduction of the Black Sea Fleet, including its ground elements and aircraft, "pending the settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem by Russia and Ukraine."

Council Backs Costly Savings Compensation Bill

MK0605072795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 May 95 p 2

[Report by Boris Boyko: "The Newly Cheated Are More Promising Than the Old Ones"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has already written, the protection of cheated investors is a card that can successfully be played by any participant in an election campaign. Possibly it was precisely so as not to "let any one else grab it" that the Federation Council approved yesterday the draft law "On Restoring and Protecting the Savings of Citizens of the Russian Federation," which was passed by the State Duma once again, taking into account presidential amendments. Thus, it was left yet another time for the president to decide the fate of a law which would cost the state 500 trillion rubles by the Finance Ministry's estimates.

Contrary to its wont, the Federation Council was in a very decisive mood yesterday as it passed the draft law virtually without discussion by 137 votes (the requisite number being 118). In fact, its fate was sealed even earlier, when members of the Budget and Finance Committee almost unanimously backed the draft at their preliminary meeting. An expert opinion signed by Committee Chairman Nikolay Gonchar proves that the committee embraced the viewpoint of those who had drafted the law: A conversion of inflated individual savings into state debt obligations will not require extra budget financing to the tune of 500 trillion rubles (which is nearly three times the 1995 budget revenue). In the drafters' view, the draft law, being a framework act, only establishes the state's responsibility for savings inflated by Gaydar's reform. If this declaration — which this draft law essentially is — is to be implemented, at least another 10 draft laws will have to be passed to regulate the conversion of deposits into new state securities (and state debt obligations) and the procedure for servicing the state debt. At the same time the drafters point to the difference between the terms "restoration" and "redemption" of deposits. In the former case the issue is debt servicing, not debt repayment, which is, naturally, much cheaper.

Of course, most deputies proceeded from considerations that are remote from practical economics. A Federation Council member said in an earlier conversation with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that "cheated depositors have already become a political factor, and taking them on would simply be a stupid thing for me to do." Evidently, the president, too, will be proceeding from the same assumptions, given that he has never opposed the idea of restoring savings — all the more so since the signing of a framework bill does not threaten the budget in any way. The law can be toppled by simply not passing follow-up legislation to flesh it out. These draft laws, which can definitely emerge by autumn at the earliest, may be used in a political game. Moreover, the government, which will actually be responsible for drawing up new draft laws on protecting individual savings, stands the best chance of capitalizing on them. As a matter of fact, without waiting for the State Duma's initiative, this subject can well be linked to a more burning matter of protecting the interests of investors in "pyramid" funds and a new generation of banks. The newly cheated, unlike the old ones, are displaying greater aggressiveness, therefore becoming a more favorable target for electoral propaganda.

Regional Affairs

Further Reportage on Situation in Chechnya

Yegorov Appeals to Local Leaders

LD0805160495 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Chechnya, according to reports from official sources, remains tense. Illegal armed formations are daily violating the moratorium on combat actions. Since the beginning of the announcement of the moratorium alone, 19 servicemen of the federal forces have been killed, and 69 have been wounded.

Colonel General Mikhail Yegorov, commander of the federal troops in Chechnya, made an appeal today to the leaders of local bodies of power to do everything in observance of the moratorium.

Dudayev's Men Said Violating Truce

MM0905082295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 95 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the Russian MVD Public Relations Center, by Vladimir Yanchenkov; date, place not given: "Playing to an Audience. Dudayev's Guerrillas Step Up Attack on Federal Troops, Breaching Terms of Moratorium" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Public Relations Center, answered your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent's questions.

[Yanchenkov] What is your opinion of the situation in the Chechen Republic today?

[Vorozhtsov] The troops from the combined group of federal forces in Chechnya are rigorously observing the terms of the moratorium on combat operations in Chechnya declared by the Russian president's edict. But an analysis of the situation prevailing today shows that the moratorium is being used by Dudayev's men not to seek peaceful solutions but in order to further step up armed confrontation, strengthen their positions, and reform their units. In particular, there is information that Dudayev's men have used the president's peace initiative to restore their communications systems, swell the manpower of the subunits that have sustained serious losses, and have begun to move from the mountains to the republic's plains in order to carry out armed provocations 7-9 May.

Armed pressure on the federal troops has intensified. Thus, throughout the term of the moratorium Dudayev's men have shelled federal troop positions on 92 occasions and carried out five major armed offensives. Meanwhile nine Russian servicemen have died and 33 have been injured.

I would like to stress that Dudayev's supporters are organizing massive psychological pressure on the republic's civilian population, in particular producing the propaganda slogan that "Russia needs Chechnya without the Chechens." At the same time they are vigorously hampering the distribution of appeals made by the Russian Government and the command of the Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya among civilian inhabitants.

[Yanchenkov] What actions is the command of the federal forces taking in this connection?

[Vorozhtsov] It identified in good time the plans and changes of tactic used by Dudayev's men and took the requisite steps. As a result no federal serviceman was injured 3 May and one man was killed and nine were injured 4 May. Had prompt steps not been taken, servicemen might have sustained far greater losses.

While observing the terms of the moratorium, the federal forces are nevertheless waging vigorous retaliation.

[Yanchenkov] So, the command of Dudayev's formations has violated the moratorium. This evidently could have been foreseen? At any rate ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has written about this on several occasions....

[Vorozhtsov] It has not only violated the moratorium. The point is that whereas during the February truce Dudayev's men made definite pledges and to some extent tried to carry them out, this time they have deliberately disregarded the moratorium and made no secret of doing so. This latest peace action on the part of the Russian president and government has proved one-sided. Dudayev's men are making no secret of the fact that the moratorium suits them; they are using it to step up their efforts to destabilize the situation. Of course that turn of events could have been foreseen. But the Russian leadership's peace move was essential, it is supremely humane and sincere. As to how the "rights campaigners," who took every opportunity to trumpet the need for a unilateral cessation of hostilities, playing up to their audience, now look, that is another matter.

Incidentally, I would like to make a complaint about certain mass media, in particular ITAR-TASS. In our view, the agency is not providing sufficiently extensive and objective coverage of current events in Chechnya.

At the same time — and this is extremely strange — the name of Udugov, leader of the Dudayev regime's information service who makes various statements, often appears on the ITAR-TASS printout. According to the agency, he repeated the standard charges against the federal forces 4 May.

Chechens Claim Russia Used C-B Arms

LD0905121095 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1750 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting continued yesterday on Chechen territory, said Movladi Udugov, head of the press and information department of the Chechen Republic, speaking to the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station. He said that the Russian air force bombed mountain roads between the Vedenskiy and Shatoyevskiy districts. Besides, Russian helicopters carried out a number of strikes from Dagestan against villages of the Nozhay-Yurt district.

On the afternoon of 7 May, the most active fighting was registered in the area between Gudermes city and the village of Novogroznyy. According to Movladi Udugov, four Chechens were wounded and at least 12 Russians killed in the hostilities.

Movladi Udugov also said that yesterday the prosecutor general's office and the main staff of the Chechen Republic made an official statement "On numerous facts of the use by the Russian side of chemical weapons and trap-mines camouflaged as children's toys." This statement said that between 27 April and 7 May the Russian artillery fired more than 120 cassette projectiles filled with poisonous chemical substances against the positions of the Chechen troops and the outskirts of mountain villages of Shali district, he added.

"The prosecutor general's office and the main staff of the Chechen Republic have not denied that the Russian side could have used bacteriological weapons with a view to provoking an outbreak of cholera and diphtheria across Chechnya," the statement reported by Movladi Udugov also says.

Movladi Udugov said that according to the statement of the prosecutor general's office two instances of severe wounding among children caused by trap-mines were registered in the Nozhay-Yurt district.

Ministry Denies Chemical Arms Use

LD0805172995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy May 8 (INTERFAX) — The headquarters of Dudayev formations have accused federal troops in Chechnya of using chemical weapons.

Dzhokhar Dudayev representative for the media Movladi Udugov told INTERFAX on the phone that the Chechen headquarters had quite a number of chemical shells used by Russian artillery for attacks on Chechen formations in the Shali Region and which failed to blow up.

Udugov said two children in the Nazhai-Yurt Region of Chechnya had been crippled because of booby traps disguised as children's toys.

The Russian Defense Ministry said such statements were provocative and aimed at distracting the attention of the world community from the issues which must urgently be resolved, including respect of the moratorium on military actions in Chechnya.

According to the same source, the Russian army had never used chemical weapons in the zone of the Chechen conflict and could not use them in line with international standards.

A source in the Russian Defense Ministry said it believed that booby-trap mines had been used by Chechen illegal armed formations.

Udugov said that the Congress of the Chechen people had been opened in the Shatoy Village today. He said the congress would discuss creating a special commission for elections.

Udugov repeated that in accordance with the Chechen Constitution presidential elections in the Caucasian republic must be held on October 27, 1995.

Udugov said that Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was expected to speak at the congress.

Troops March in VE-Day Parade

LD0905110295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 9 May 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY May 9 (Itar-Tass) — Russian troops in Chechnya marched in a military parade devoted to the 50th anniversary of the VE-day in Groznyy Tuesday.

The parade involved infantry units, airborne troops, marines and Interior forces and took place at the Severnyy airport of the Chechen capital.

In Groznyy and other Chechen settlements rallies were held Tuesday and wreaths laid to the tombs of those killed during WW2. The military held meetings with Chechen war veterans and the public.

Scant Progress Seen in Peace Talks

MM0905085595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 May 95 p 3

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Astashkin: "Chechnya: A Moratorium Has Been Declared and Talks Are Under Way, Albeit With Minimal Success"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The moratorium declared by edict of the Russian Federation president is in force, but Dudayev's supporters continue to shell Russian signal posts and traffic regulating sections. Russian servicemen are continuing to be killed by guerrilla bullets. Thus during shelling of the 506th Motorized Infantry Regiment one soldier died and two were wounded. An armored personnel carrier in which a military patrol was traveling was shelled. In the center of Groznyy six guerrillas, of whom two proved to be women, surrendered into captivity after the tower block from which they had been firing was blockaded. Four assault rifles, several grenades, and a small quantity of ammunition was confiscated from them. The question perforce arises: What do the illegal armed forces on the territory of Chechnya not like about the declared moratorium?

Many of the Chechen side's standpoints are clarified, in my view, by the meeting between Major General Gennadiy Troshev, commander of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense operations group of forces in Chechnya, and Aslan Maskhadov, one of the leaders of the illegal armed formations. Gen. Troshev invited a group of journalists to this meeting. After his helicopter had landed on the outskirts of the village of Novyye Atagi, Gennadiy Nikolayev told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent, in particular:

"This is my third meeting with Maskhadov. Of course, we talk at our own level. In addition I have been entrusted by the defense minister with conveying to the illegal armed formations all the points of our demands: first, an immediate cease-fire; second, the handover of weapons; third, the departure of all guerrillas to their homes; and finally, fourth, none of them will be pursued by the law, except for those who are guilty of the deaths of civilians, fanatical cruelty, or other serious crimes. As you see, there are only four points. If they were fulfilled, peace would reign in this land. But no. As soon as it comes to the second point - the surrender of arms — they slam on the brakes: Chechens are a proud people, they say, they will not kneel, they will not surrender arms at gunpoint. What, we ask, do they want? For Russian troops to be withdrawn immediately from the republic's territory — will they only sit down at the negotiating table in that event? Naturally, we cannot comply with this. So an impasse results."

The meeting between the commanders of the opposing sides took place in a house that resembles a palace. Its master is Rizvan Lorsanov — chief of the Benoy clan, one of the largest in Chechnya.

"Everyone is now bored with this war," Rizvan Dokhuyev said in conversation with me. "People must sow grain and breed livestock. But the fields and meadows are strewn with mines and unexploded ammunition...."

The need to end the war is also acknowledged by the illegal armed formations' field commanders. At any rate, so we were convinced in talking to many of them.

The talks, which lasted more than three hours, brought, alas, no tangible results. After the meeting with the

Russian side's representative, Maskhadov stated to journalists, in particular:

"The moratorium gives us nothing. Our position remains the same: Russian troops should leave the territory of the Chechen Republic. Only then will we be able to talk about a cease-fire, the surrender of arms, and other problems."

Gen. Troshev was more diplomatic:

"At our level individual questions (on the exchange of prisoners and handing over the wounded and killed) are being resolved. Or not being resolved, but with small breakthroughs. On the major points of our demands, however, we have been unable to determine our positions, since this falls outside our jurisdiction."

Thus this meeting too, the third in succession, between representatives of the Russian and Chechen sides, did not become the path that might bring peace and concord to the Chechen land. It remains to be hoped that the search for ways of making peace will continue and that in the final analysis compromises and mutual concessions will be found which will bring long-awaited peace to this long-suffering land.

Chechens Plan Guerrilla War Strategy

LD0905091495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0835 GMT 9 May 95

[By Nadezhda Chaykova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] May 9 (Itar-Tass) [dateline as received] — Chechen fighters plan to make Russian troops withdraw from the republic through a guerrilla war and believe the moratorium on fighting introduced by President Boris Yeltsin was aimed to calm down world public on the eve of VE-day celebrations.

"We rely on subversive activities which aim to eliminate them (federal troops) and impede their movements", Shamil Basayev, commander of militants loyal to separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, told Tass Tuesday.

He added that "such tactics are sure to make the Russian leadership sit down at the negotiating table on conditions of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Chechen republic".

Asked whether the federal troops are capable of capturing the mountain bases of the militants, Basayev said "they can if they cover the mountains with dead bodies".

Chief of the Dudayev military staff, Aslan Maskhadov, told Tass that there would be "no peace in Chechnya until the last Russian soldier leaves its territory".

The moratorium on fighting "is aimed to create a favourable (Russian) image in the eyes of the world public during holidays" devoted to the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the VE-day, he said.

"The moratorium cannot be observed because fighter planes are flying over the republic and a constant artillery shelling is going on", according to Maskhadov.

He believes that peace talks between the Russian military command and Chechen field commanders will yield no results.

Public Groups Issue Anti-War Statement

MM0805171595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Who Is Waging the War in Chechnya? Statement by Representatives of Russian Public"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Five Months of War in Chechnya" — a joint statement issued by the organizations party to the agreement "On Joint Actions in Defense of Peace and Freedom and Against Bloodshed in Chechnya" has been circulated under this headline. These organizations include the "Memorial" Society, the Moscow Helsinki Group, the Coordinating Council for Aid for Refugees and Displaced Persons, the "Democratic Russia" Public Movement, the "Antifascist Youth Action" movement, the "Russia's Democratic Choice" Party, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, and others, along with individual public figures and deputies (V. Belotserkovskiy, Yu. Burtin, Len Karpinskiy, V. Borshchev).

The statement presents a brief analysis of the methods used to wage the war in Chechnya, a sinister symbol of which was the tragedy of the village of Samashki, which rocked the whole civilized world. To date, the list compiled by S. Kovalev's group of those village residents who died as a result of the punitive OMON [Special- Purpose Militia Detachment] and spetsnaz operation includes 96 names. Among them 19 old people (including veterans of the Patriotic War) and 13 women.

The statement provides a wealth of factual materials indicating the brutality of the methods used to wage the war in Chechnya, the scale of the ensuing losses and devastation, and the massive violations of basic and fundamental human rights, including the right to a roof over one's head and to life itself. The main thing that the war in Chechnya has demonstrated, the statement's authors believe, is that its actual results are contrary to the avowed objectives.

One can hardly speak of the "strengthening of Russia's territorial integrity" as a result of the Chechen campaign. The peoples of Russia — not only in the Caucasus — are rising up against one another and anti-Russian sentiments are growing in many republics.

The statement draws attention to the fact that it is not Russia waging the war in Chechnya. Virtually all the influential political groups, public organizations and movements, and mass media (aside from the semiofficial mass media) have opposed this war to some degree or other. The bloodshed in the North Caucasus has been condemned by both chambers of the Federal Assembly. Lastly, according to all public opinion polls, the war in Chechnya does not have the approval of most of the Russian Federation's population. The war is being waged — via the might of an army forced to obey orders — by the federal executive. The president and the government are directly accountable for this war.

The statement says that the immediate cessation of the war is the only alternative to both the current terrible reality and the threatening prospects. Not a hypocritical one-week "moratorium" until eminent foreign visitors have left, but the urgent beginning of full-scale peace talks with those Chechen leaders who are organizing the armed opposition to the federal forces.

The continuing fratricidal carnage in Chechnya is a disgrace to Russia and an insult to the glorious Victory, which the Chechens won together with Russia's other peoples.

The statement is open for signing by other organizations and also private individuals.

Tatar Premier on Coming Government Changes

954F2217A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Farid Mukhamedshin, prime minister of Tatarstan, by Indira Dunayeva; place and date not given: "Farid Mukhamedshin: 'We Will Have To Live More Stringently'; Price Liberalization Has Started Under the New Prime Minister of Tatarstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dunayeva] Farid Khayrullovich, over the last several years you were the speaker of the Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan, and you have headed the government since January of this year; moreover, at a time that has been very unfavorable for the economy of the republic. Nevertheless, you agreed to the proposal of President Mintimer Shaymiyev and became prime minister. Does this mean that you know exactly how to lead the economy out of the crisis situation?

[Mukhamedshin] If you are talking about the results of 1994, we really did end it with a level of decline in production that was a little larger than in the Russian Federation as a whole. This is also explained among other things by the complications in the republic's oil complex and the consequences of the fire at the KamAZ engine plant. There is an especially difficult situation in the construction complex. The government's debts have exceeded 400 billion rubles—these are unpaid wages and inadequate financing of housing, road, and gas installation construction. But there are no desperate situations, and we are seeking solutions. The government has already been working for about a year on a Tatarstan program for social and economic progress and stabilization of the economy. While working in the Supreme Soviet of the country, I insisted on the need for the development of a scientifically based and specific program that contemplated the inclusion of all reserves and capabilities of the economy of Tatarstan in the work, and the attraction of investments to the republic, perceiving in this a basis for reducing the decline in production. My proposals also coincided with the opinion of the president of Tatarstan; therefore, I agreed to head the government. I am convinced that the implementation of such a program will facilitate the stabilization of the republic's economy.

[Dunayeva] How ready is the program?

[Mukhamedshin] The main approaches have already been printed, and now only revisions are being made. I think that the program will be submitted in the first half of this year for the examination of the State Council—the parliament of the republic.

[Dunayeva] How much time will it take to implement the program?

[Mukhamedshin] If it is approved and begins to be implemented in the near future, then elements of stabilization will appear next year in individual branches. What is very important is that the government commission that is working on the program has already in the course of its activity turned out a number of normative and legislative acts that were adopted in the form of edicts of the president of Tatarstan and decrees of the government—and they are already working. For example, the edict of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan concerning privileges for foreign investors who enter the economy of the republic with capital of more than $100 million.

[Dunayeva] Does this not contradict Russia's tax legislation?

[Mukhamedshin] Tatarstan's tax policy, which is basically separate from Russia's, cannot be changed. However, we decide the question of tax privileges after analyzing the position of each enterprise at a special interdepartmental commission. We examine those for whom privileged treatment is necessary in order for an enterprise to implement a new project in the near future that will facilitate an increase in the flow of resources into the republic's budget in a short period of time. And tax relaxation for big foreign investors does not contradict Russian legislation. I think that now, after the adoption of the new normative acts, investments will flow in. In any case, we will promote their vitalization.

[Dunayeva] Did you succeed in adopting a deficit-free budget for 1995?

[Mukhamedshin] As in the Russian Federation, we adopted a budget law only for the first quarter. But in general the income part is formed from more than R3 trillion, and the expenditures part—more than R3.5 trillion. At present the budget deficit is at the 11 percent level. We will submit a variant for examination by the State Council in which the deficit will be in the 10 percent range. We are examining the possibility of reducing the expenditures part, especially reduction in the administrative apparatus. At least, I can say that our national economy in 1995 will live under conditions of tough economizing in all aspects, and work will be activated to control the more effective use of the state share of property.

Whether we like it or not, we will have to live more "stringently" and consider every budget kopek.

[Dunayeva] On the fourth day after taking over the post of prime minister you freed prices, declaring that in the future prices will be regulated only for bread and milk, and that the period of "soft" entry into the market was coming to an end...

[Mukhamedshin] Yes, I analyzed the state of affairs in the economy and the condition of the budget and came to the conclusion that we do not have the capability to give subsidies for specific food products, commodities, and services for the whole population, as was done earlier. We are raising the purchase prices for livestock products, thereby supporting the agricultural goods producer, and simultaneously freeing sales prices, equalizing them with the average Russian prices that set in.

[Dunayeva] These measures are obviously unpopular. Why did you immediately decide on them?

[Mukhamedshin] I am taking these steps as a politician, looking a little farther ahead than today. It would have been possible in the first months of work to continue controlling prices, but tomorrow this would have turned into a big misfortune for the citizens of the republic—calculations show this.

In addition, as a result of the reduction in subsidies, and owing to the freeing of resources, the direct support of those who urgently need it is intensified.

[Dunayeva] It was assumed that with your arrival in the prime minister's post the government would become more reformist. But while your actions conform to the expectations of the "marketers," the composition itself of the cabinet of ministers has actually not changed...

[Mukhamedshin] Some of the deputy prime ministers were candidates for the State Council and became deputies, and some took other work on their own initiative. But I have not made any important rearrangements in the government. But the structure of the government will soon be changed entirely—in connection with the fact that its role and functions are changing under the conditions of transition to the market. The share of private property and joint-stock property is increasing and the number of commercial banks is growing.

I am dissatisfied with the activity of the antimonopoly administration and the committee on bankruptcy—I think that they are working very timidly. There is no manager in the antimonopoly administration, only someone in an acting status, and I am trying to find a decisive person who upholds the position of demonopolization of large industries.

A number of ministries will be eliminated and reprofiled, and names and functions will be changed.

[Dunayeva] The Supreme Soviet had complaints against the government, including in the field of openness of information. In your opinion, will the mutual relations between parliament and the government improve now?

[Mukhamedshin] Unquestionably, we will make the budget open, and the main sources of incomes and of expenditure items will be completely submitted to the State Council—for deputy analysis, comments, and proposals. It seems to me that the present deputy corps will treat with great understanding the problems of the transition period and the difficulties that arise in the government in this connection. Many chiefs of administration who carry similar obligations in their regions and who are directly responsible for the state of affairs in the localities went into parliament.

[Dunayeva] How correct does the fact seem to you that elections to parliament were only according to districts and not according to party rolls?

[Mukhamedshin] The elections indeed showed that a real multiparty system unfortunately did not develop in the republic. Of the candidates supported by parties, only a handful went into parliament. I think that in the future it will also be necessary to stipulate the election of part of the deputies according to party lists. But now there are almost no large parties that are recognized by the citizens of the republic. There are no parties that would be supported by their companions in all the regions of Tatarstan: Of those that did emerge, both the leaders and the forces are concentrated in the capital, in Kazan.

[Dunayeva] Which of the parties—Russian, Tatar—arouse your greatest sympathy?

[Mukhamedshin] There are parties whose positions in by-laws and programs impress me. For example, the firm position of the communists in defense of the social interests of the population. Or the position of the national party Ittifak in the field of defending the national culture, language, and education. I support the idea of the need to preserve the unity of the Russian state—which is also demanded by some parties; for example, the DPR [Democratic Party of Russia]. I am against isolating ourselves from the region with which we are linked by centuries of economic and political ties. Self-isolation is ruinous.

[Dunayeva] However, several years ago you zealously fought for the sovereignty of Tatarstan...

[Mukhamedshin] I spoke even at that time about the sovereignty and the great independence of Tatarstan, and I uphold these same positions now. Given the approaches to reforms that are being implemented by the federal authorities, the republics should have the right to choose their own approach, taking into account economic capabilities, territorial peculiarities, and national mentality. Every republic should have the right to conduct many reforms independently.

[Dunayeva] And oblasts and krays?

[Mukhamedshin] They should also have such rights. We have said that everyone should enjoy a similar set of rights and powers. In contrast to krays and oblasts, the source of the origin of rights for national republics is simply their state sovereignty. This is practically the way everyone received such powers. It was three years ago that we were supposed "to salute" all instructions of the federal authorities, and there was no leeway for displaying and taking regional capabilities into account. We were simply the first to raise this question actively. The leadership of Tatarstan spoke and speaks in support of building a genuine democratic Federation. But full independence is an abstract and unnecessary notion.

This was a mutual process, and the president of Russia took bold steps to meet the republic halfway. Boris Yeltsin assumed the responsibility and, contrary to the criticism of many of his associates, took the path of contract treaty relations with one of the components of the Federation. I think that Tatarstan's contribution to the building of a democratic Russia is invaluable. We came to a bilateral treaty on the demarcation of powers and thereby strengthened the authority and leadership of the Russian Federation, and of our republic. In 1994, as is well-known, we concluded a treaty between the organs of authority of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan, and we signed 12 intergovernmental agreements.

[Dunayeva] As far as I know, the agreements have not been carried out fully by either side.

[Mukhamedshin] Tatarstan from the very beginning adopted all measures to fully implement its obligations. Our president, Mintimer Shaymiyev, declared at that time that the treaty is the first such, and unprecedented, and that we must demonstrate how we respect this treaty and are implementing all of its points, and that we must not give an opportunity to anyone who wants to profit from the nonfulfillment of some point of the treaty as well as of the agreements. That is the way we acted, and as a result it turned out that many of the positions were not implemented by federal organs of authority. Incomplete financing of some of the federal programs, the elimination of the aftereffects of the KamAZ fire, etc.

When an aggregate balance of the interrelationships of the two budgets was conducted, it turned out that the federal authority was in debt to the republic. The figure is not large, and we came to an agreement that it will be covered in the 1995 budget interrelationships. A commission under the leadership of Oleg Soskovets will examine the progress of implementation of the agreements.

I recently met once again with Anatoliy Chubays. Debts are being repaid to us, and the federal government in the person of the minister confirmed that Tatarstan is punctually fulfilling all agreements on transfers to the federal budget.

[Dunayeva] How do you assess the activity of the Russian Government and, first and foremost, the Federation Council, of which you are a member?

[Mukhamedshin] Critically. First, the constitutional powers of the Federation Council are inadequate; second, the position of its speaker is too passive and feeble, in addition to which the positions of its senators are disunited in their opinions. All this has led to the fact that until now candidates have not been confirmed for many positions, the Constitutional Court was formed with difficulty, and a political solution of the Chechen conflict has not been found.

[Dunayeva] But how can this be resolved now?

[Mukhamedshin] Stop it.

[Dunayeva] Everyone says "stop it," but how?

[Mukhamedshin] That is why everyone is saying it is necessary to stop. Simply say: We are ceasing all combat operations. In May we will celebrate the 50th Victory Anniversary in the just struggle of our people for their independence, and if a war is going on on its territory at that time... I think that this holiday will be clouded for all veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

[Dunayeva] How do you like the Duma?

[Mukhamedshin] It is impossible to constitute it any other way. As is society—so is the Duma. It recently started to work more efficiently, judging by the number of draft laws that are arriving at the Federation Council.

Tatar President on Election, Chernomyrdin Bloc

MK0705102995 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 May 95 p 3

[Interview with Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev under the "Regional Elite: Mintimer Shaymiyev" rubric: "A Calculating President of an 'Island of Stability'" — first passage is introduction; place and date not given; followed by Dmitriy Kamyshev commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the jigsaw puzzle of interests and contradictions called the center's regional policy, Tatarstan has always occupied a special place. Over the past few years relations between Kazan and Moscow have gone through a number of stages — from fierce confrontation to "friendship forever." Meanwhile, President Mintimer Shaymiyev has turned from a "separatist" into one of Russia's most influential regional leaders, whose opinions are heeded even by unsentimental Kremlin politicians. Today, Mintimer Shaymiyev answers KOMMERSANT-DAILY's questions.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Three years ago journalists dubbed Tatarstan "an island of communism." What is it now?

[Shaymiyev] An island of stability, I think. There is no denying that this is worthwhile at this juncture. We have set as our goal to see to it that the period of the people's declining living standards is as short as possible. Whatever view of our concept of a soft transition to a market economy you may have had, it has finally proved justified. Our standard of living did not decline until 1994. Now, it is true, there is a certain drop, but the time period is shorter. Moreover, with us the downslide is not as deep as the average in Russia. Over these years we have effectively kept the consumption of meat, milk, sugar, and eggs unchanged. This attests to something. A certain stabilization is beginning to emerge in industry. It is too early to talk about sustainable growth, of course, but I hope that we will leave the crisis behind by year's end. And that at a time when KamAZ is still essentially out of operation. But we count very much on it, expecting that it will begin gearing up starting in the second half of the year. We are concerned, however, by the plight of the republic's military-industrial sector. There are few orders. People cannot make ends meet. And funds from the federal budget to pay for state orders and to finance conversion are being delayed. There is a relevant decision by the Russian government, but it has so far been inadequately implemented. Unfortunately, this is not the first case where directives from the federal authorities have not been complied with by other federal agencies. What then do we need the authorities for? If directives are not complied with, one should immediately intervene. [passage omitted]

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] You have often been called a president who suits everyone. But the results of the recent elections to the Tatarstan State Council or, to be more precise, a number of statements by the opposition on the illegitimacy of the current parliament give food for thought. How strong is the opposition in the republic and how are you going to deal with it?

[Shaymiyev] In a normal manner. There have been attacks on their part, but none on mine. I have always worked openly. As regards the elections, I said long before they were held that the extremist forces' arrival in power in the republic would be impermissible. I have always said: If events take a bad turn, then at a certain juncture I will have to resort to my influence on the electorate. Tatarstan is a republic dominated by two nations — the Tatars and the Russians. Would the population of the republic be happy if the "Equality and the Rule of Law" bloc, which fully rejects the idea of sovereignty, or the ethnic "Ittifak" party, which strives for complete independence, came to power? A majority of the population does not accept either of these ideas. According to public opinion surveys, people have become more absorbed in the republic's concerns. A universal feeling of patriotism is gaining ground. In that regard, the opposition is having a hard time here. The sole way out — and I have openly told them so — is to join us. Generally speaking, I believe that there should be an opposition. But it had better be a constructive one. I am ready to cooperate with all, including those on the margins. But in so doing I hold a strictly principled view which includes what is acceptable for the peoples of Tatarstan.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Nearly one-half of the parliament's lineup are heads of rayon and city administrations. Can't it so happen that the deputies will view the president, above all, as their chief, and only afterward as the head of republic?

[Shaymiyev] There has been much talk about heads of administration. I knew that this would be the case. I have said absolutely frankly that a head who does not enjoy popular confidence should not hold his office. If he is elected deputy of one council or another — this is legitimacy. If not, I will have to nominate another person via elections by the entire population. Isn't that democratic? And then, why is it that nobody pays attention to the other side of the matter? An administration head who is also a deputy will concentrate great authority. And for the president it will be more difficult to work with such powerful deputies.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] With whom do you sympathize most among Russian politicians?

[Shaymiyev] For all his contradictory nature, I think that Yeltsin has done a lot. Basically, he is more committed to democratic transformations than anybody else. I say this as a person who has been with him through various political situations. Although the Chechen events have aroused certain doubts in me... I fear extremes, this is something that, maybe, sticks in my subconsciousness. Now, Rutskoy, you know... Judging from statements he has been making, he will do no good. Gaydar has gained more political experience. I have always had a high opinion of his approach to economic reform, even if Tatarstan was treading a somewhat different path. Gaydar has done a lot: If he hadn't started things, it is hard to imagine what things would be like now. And currently Gaydar is also growing as a politician... I like Chubays very much, although they say different things about him, accuse him of ill-advised steps regarding privatization... But what else could we have started with in a moneyless Russia? I, for one, do not see great mistakes on his part. In my judgment, Chubays is making real progress. In order to build civilized market relations, this path had to be covered.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] In the past few days there has been much speculation about the newly created "Chernomyrdin bloc." You also attended a meeting of the bloc's initiative group.

[Shaymiyev] Tatarstan in principle supports this movement — it makes it possible to represent the interests of our republic better in the State Duma. Why can't the current government seek support for its policies through elections? Due to the still existing share for those elected to the Duma on party tickets, half the deputies are from Moscow and St. Petersburg. For a federation, this ratio is unacceptable, all the more so because Moscow-based parties do not enjoy particular support on the ground.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] What is your view of the principles for forming the future Federation Council?

[Shaymiyev] This should be done in accordance with the Russian Constitution. Currently, a number of proposals have been made to amend the existing procedure for forming the Federation Council. But in order to do so relevant articles of the Constitution need to be amended first. How can this be done? One may not draft, let alone pass, laws that run counter to the Constitution. As for governors appointed by the Russian president, I think that they, too, should go through elections. Then the Federation Council will have complete legitimacy in accordance with the Constitution.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Thank you.

[Shaymiyev] You are welcome.

[Article includes the following boxed commentary by Dmitriy Kamyshev]

Commentary

Mintimer Shaymiyev's decisive role in Tataria's becoming the trailblazer in establishing a new system of relations with the federal authorities is unquestionable. Although other colleagues of the Tatar president also had the experience of administering their regions as obkom secretaries, few of them have managed to display such an outstanding ability to adapt to sharp fluctuations in the political situation both in the republic and in Russia as a whole. True, Shaymiyev's drift away from tough, nearly nationalistic slogans to a full (at least in words) mutual understanding with the center can be perceived by an outsider as a lack of commitment to principle. But this rather corroborates the political acumen of the Tatar president, who has chosen stability in the republic as his main task and who sees nothing wrong about making sharp and unexpected turnarounds for the sake of achieving it.

True, Shaymiyev's understanding of stability — especially in the political sphere — is rather peculiar. The president, for instance, makes no secret of being proud of the fact that he has managed to prevent the election of "extreme forces" to parliament. However, whereas the Ittifak movement, both in its slogans and methods of political struggle can by some stretch be referred to as extremist, the Equality and Legality bloc, where leading roles are played by local supporters of Yavlinskiy, would in Moscow at best be considered right of center. The massive election of administration chiefs and government members to the State Council, which effectively resulted in the merging of the representative and executive branches, can hardly be ranked among the victories of democracy — even if this avoids "empty and useless discussions" in parliament.

True, the population of Tataria, judging by the results of recent elections, has nothing against these "antidemocratic" actions by its authorities. Meanwhile, the impotence of the opposition, which out of despair makes such unproductive moves as creating a "shadow parliament," offers fresh proof that Shaymiyev's confidence in his firm position has serious foundations. This in turn allows him to take a more active stand in relations with the center while remaining an indisputable leader among the heads of the republics standing up to the increasing "anti-republic" pressure of kray and oblast chiefs.

Incidentally, Moscow, for all the sympathy among the capital's politicians for the idea of "governatizing" ["gubernizatsiya"] Russia, does not seem to be averse to the idea of using republic leaders as a counterbalance to the excessive zest of the governors. Noteworthy in this respect is the republic presidents' active participation in forming Viktor Chernomyrdin's election bloc: Branches of the "Russia Is Our Home" movement were first created in Bashkiria, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Tataria, while Mintimer Shaymiyev himself hastened to predict massive regional support for the bloc. Such rapid recognition of a new Moscow initiative can partly be explained again by the political acumen of the Tatar president: Even in the event that the premier's bloc collapses at the federal level, its success in Tataria — provided republic leaders take part in it — can be seen as a foregone conclusion, which, naturally, will further raise the authority of Tataria and its leader in the eyes of the federal administration.

Tatarstan President on Economic Results

954F2211A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Times and the Burden of Personal Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Text] M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan, has held a meeting with the participation of leaders of ministries and departments, senior officials of the president's staff, the State Council, and the Cabinet, and the heads of administrations of cities and rayons, devoted to the preliminary results of the work of the national economy of Tatarstan in the first quarter and current problems of the operation of industrial enterprises and the agro-industrial complex of the republic. Paramount attention was paid, naturally, to the state of affairs in agriculture.

The situation here, according to the information of Deputy Prime Minister F. Sibagatullin, minister of agriculture and food of the Republic of Tatarstan, is as follows. Spring field work this year began 10-12 days sooner than the customary times. The weather conditions that are taking shape require efforts for the maximum preservation of moisture in the soil and the accelerated harrowing of the underwinter fallow, the winter-sown crops, and perennial grasses. This work has been performed successfully in the majority of rayons of the republic. The top-dressing of winter crops and perennial grasses has been completed. The soil is being prepared and the spring crops are being sown. The sowing of industrial crops—sugar beet and fodder beet, rape, and sunflower—is actively under way. A number of rayons are sowing corn according to grain technology and planting potatoes.

Things are not as good when it comes to the winter crops. Approximately 100,000 hectares have to be reseeded owing to the loss or weakening of the winter crops as a result of mass breaches of technological discipline, specifically, the failure to treat or the substandard treatment of the seeds and sown areas with Fundazol. There must be an end to this situation, M. Shaymiyev emphasized, and the entire responsibility for this is borne by the rayon administration chiefs. Meanwhile, a considerable lag in the pace of the sowing is observed in some rayons. Disturbing trends have emerged in the republic's animal husbandry: The head of livestock and milk and meat production are declining. In the first quarter of this year the production of milk in Tatarstan as a whole declined 12 percent, of meat, 11 percent, and the average per-cow milk yield, by 63 kg.

It is obvious that, aside from the organizational shortcomings at all levels of management of the agroindustrial complex, the acute shortage of funds and material resources is having a negative effect on the state of affairs. Information about what can be done and what is already being done in this respect was heard at the meeting.

The Government of Tatarstan has allocated from the republic budget for the purchase of mineral fertilizer 217 billion rubles [R], including R10 billion for the sowing of sugar beet; plant-protection agents are being purchased for a total of R7 billion and $2 million.

The Pioneer and Skandiya firms are purchasing corn seed for $3 million and R3 billion of sunflower seed.

The Republic of Tatarstan Cabinet has granted a soft loan of R50 billion to cover the arrears in the pay of rural workers, R27.5 billion of which have already gone to the rayons.

In addition, the question of the purchase of 1,000 crawler tractors against the future harvest totaling R55 billion is being studied, and the system of the leasing of agricultural equipment will continue. The Government of the Republic of Tatarstan has also allocated the rural commodity producers R36 billion for the refining of 200,000 tonnes of oil.

An agreement with Moscow for the allocation of commodity credit totaling R500 billion for the purchase of 200,000 tonnes of gasoline, 400,000 tonnes of diesel fuel, and 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil is at the completion stage.

These figures indicate, M. Shaymiyev, speaking at the meeting, emphasized, that despite the difficult financial situation, the leadership of the republic is doing everything to support agriculture and will continue to do so. But this should not serve as grounds for complacency. Society is today switching to new market conditions, and the leaders of the cities and rayons must more than ever be up to the demands of the day.

Nonetheless, the president of the Republic of Tatarstan continued, despite the decisions that have been adopted and the demands of the times, reform of the agro-industrial complex is progressing unsatisfactorily in the republic, and the localities simply cannot switch from word to deed. It is now essential in each rayon to organize experimental farms, and people must see and feel great concern on the part of the leaders for the interests of the rural commodity producers.

The president then dwelt briefly on the state of affairs in industry and construction. The decline in industrial production continued in the first quarter, within the planned limits, it is true, he said. Nonetheless, certain signs of stabilization and revitalization are already emerging. There is hope, for example, that the position of the Kama truck plant will begin to right itself in the second half—investments are on the way. Big efforts are now being channeled into the assurance of the continuous operation of the oil and petrochemical complex—the basic branches of the national economy.

It is essential that the heads of the administrations of cities and rayons pull up also the construction complex and enterprises of light and food industry, helping them with working assets.

Questions of the denationalization of state property also should be made paramount. The republic authorities have drawn up a good program of privatization, and it should be a guide to action for the leaders of the rayons and cities.

M. Shaymiyev went on to dwell on the need for a further toughening of the measures of the fight against crime and prevention of the distortions of the prices of certain foodstuffs. He demanded that the leaders of the ministries and departments and the administration chiefs adopt all the appropriate measures to eliminate the arrears in the disbursement to the working people of their pay.

In conclusion, the president described his recent meetings in Moscow with President B. Yeltsin and V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, during which there was comprehensive discussion of questions of the development of mutually profitable cooperation between the Republic of Tatarstan and the federal authorities and fulfillment of the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan. F. Mukhametshin, prime minister of the Republic of Tatarstan, and V. Likhachev, chairman of the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, took part in the meeting.

Tatarstan Parliament Holds Plenary Session

954F2211B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Galina Grigorenko and Shamil Idiatullin: "The First Step Is the Hardest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The second full session of the new parliament began its work in the same tone as the 12th Supreme Soviet.

The adjustment of the agenda proposed by the State Council Presidium took almost one and a half hours, in any event, although there were somewhat fewer inquiries, nor are the speakers what they were formerly. Fanavil Shaymardanov moved, for example, that the session consider a further six matters in supplementary fashion. He deemed it essential that attention be given to several bills: on the fight against crime and organized crime, on citizenship, on the recall of deputies, on military service in the Republic of Tatarstan, on repatriates, and on taxation. It was ascertained in the course of further discussion that some bills had not yet undergone expert evaluation in the standing commissions, others came under the terms of reference of the Russian Federation, and yet others simply do not exist.... In the opinion of those who spoke at the session, many of the people's deputies' proposals should necessarily be part of the "legislative portfolio" of the State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan and be considered without haste, in the established procedure. But the recommendation of an Ittifak rank-and-file promotee that a bill drafted by the Milli Medjlis be "assumed as a basis" was unconditionally rejected. In addition, the member of parliament was reminded that only people's deputies, the president, and the Cabinet of Ministers, not public organizations, to which the Milli Medjlis undoubtedly pertains, have the right of legislative initiative.

But a majority of people's deputies voted for the motion of Fandas Safiullin that the session make an evaluation of the events in Chechnya. True, the entire collective of deputies wrestled for a long time with the wording of an item that could be included on the agenda. A small commission had to be created for this, even. A compromise version, "On the Progress of Fulfillment of the Decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tatarstan 'Events in the Chechen Republic' of 18 January 1995," was ultimately found.

The election of the State Council's standing commissions was far from a simple matter also. It should be recalled that they are now formed not according to "branch" but according to general directions. It is perfectly understandable that some deputies displayed serious misgivings lest problems of science and the higher school, agriculture, and health care should become lost in the "general mass." F. Safiullin, for example, reminded the session that there are in the parliaments of the United States and Russia standing commissions for veterans' affairs, while in the State Council of Tatarstan such had already been abolished. And this fact, the people's deputy believes, could be viewed negatively by the electorate, enormous masses of which are veterans of war and labor.

Despite the relatively ponderable arguments, the session decided to confine itself to the election of seven standing commissions. But, as Vasiliy Likhachev, chairman of the State Council, said, none of the said problems will be forgotten, and it could soon be possible to return to the formation of the structure of parliament.

As we have already reported, "the knives were out" at the first session of the State Council in connection with the announcement that the republic budget was not in a position to subsidize the activity of all the deputies who had run for election in territorial electoral districts. It was obvious at the second session that passions had subsided and that the matter had been resolved to mutual satisfaction. [Figure illegible] deputies will work in the State Council on a permanent basis. They include [figure illegible] Tatars and [figure illegible] Russians and representatives of other nationalities. Each of them has higher education. The professional parliamentary corps includes a worker, a serviceman, a physicist, a journalist, four teachers, two environmentalists, seven engineers, 10 lawyers, three medical practitioners, three agricultural scientists, two economists, and four writers. There are party emissaries on the "roll" also—four communists, a member of the Ittifak Party, and a member of Equality and Legality.

Consideration at the session of the budget message of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan for 1995 began on Wednesday with the reports of Alla Gabutdinova, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Economics, and of Finance Minister Dmitriy Nagumanov, and continued into Thursday. Both the similarity and the differences of the old and new parliaments of the republic were demonstrated clearly in the course of it.

We shall cite the basic figures characterizing the results of the past year and the forecast for the present year. The consolidated budget of last year was fulfilled 83 percent against a revised forecast of 2.6 trillion rubles [R]. The indicators of the execution of the revenue side of the republic budget were somewhat lower (77 percent). The main reason is the payments crisis. The accounts payable of enterprises and organizations of the republic grew fourfold as of the start of the year and constituted approximately R5 trillion. By 1 March this sum had risen to R6.5 trillion (debt receivables in these three months grew from R4.7 trillion to R5.3 trillion).

The results of the first quarter as a whole are more auspicious: The revenue side of the consolidated budget was fulfilled 124 percent, and of the republic budget, 131 percent (expenditure, however, was financed only 73 percent, which was connected mainly with the government's R800 billion debt that was carried over to this year). Industrial production in this time declined 2.9 percent compared with the corresponding period of 1994, which was 10 times less than last year's indicator.

Certain signs of stabilization are in evidence.

For a better grasp of the figures we would note that 33,000 economic agents are operating in the republic today, and R18.965 trillion are "making the rounds."

It is forecast that republic budget revenue this year will be R2.7 trillion (of the consolidated budget, R4.8 trillion), the principal sources traditionally being VAT, excise, and profits tax. Expenditure of the republic budget is put at R2.99 trillion (of the consolidated budget, R5.27 trillion). The main directions of expenditure policy are a reduction in subsidies of all kinds with an increase in the proportion of targeted subsidies; a reduction of capital investments to the minimum; targeted social protection.

This means in practice for the oil workers preservation of the present volumes, and 5 million tonnes of oil will be allocated the Nizhnekamskneftekhim stock company, what is more, for subsequently providing the Orgsintez and Nizhnekamskshina stock companies with raw material in order to be able to deal in the end product; for the mechanical engineers, a symbolic reduction in production of 3 percent against a growth in the manufacture of motor vehicles and equipment (special hopes are being placed in the Kama truck plant); and also the preservation of last year's volumes for the military- industrial complex and the agro-industrial complex. The strategy of this year and next year consists in the stabilization of production with a simultaneous generation and expansion of points of growth (we are talking primarily about oil and mechanical engineering projects with rapid cost recovery).

In accordance with a tradition that was formed by the Supreme Soviet, even, the main part of the discussion was devoted to shaking loose money—but, on account of the specific composition of the State Council, it was no longer a question so much of individual schools and hospitals as of cities and rayons. The finance minister's locution "esteemed administration heads" when addressing in the course of parliamentary hearings a group of his interlocutors could have been extended to a sizable part of the audience. It was for this reason that the discussion was, in the main, unexpectedly intelligible and specific. Amusing things were ascertained also—the budget contains, for example, a subsidy for the purchase of onions outside of Tatarstan, while it is the umpteenth year now that onions grown in Cheremshanskiy Rayon have remained unsold.

General criticism was evoked by the meager expenditure on the social and culture sphere. The habitual arguments of the rapporteurs: "We would greatly like to take this into consideration, but there are no finances," were found to be unconvincing. And, in fact, if we abstract ourselves from macroeconomic ideas, what should we be building if not schools and maternity homes?

In accordance with the good old tradition, the question of the inclusion in the budget of all possible sources of revenue was raised. Certain progress is in evidence: Receipts from foreign economic activity constituted a line of the budget for the first time. It was proposed developing the success and entering off-budget funds there. They, the speakers believed, together with the manifestly understated revenue from privatization and that same foreign economic activity, form such a government "stash" that it is impossible to speak objectively about a budget deficit. What kind of deficit can there be if there are trillions right next door (this called to mind the consolidated republic balance sheet)?

This forced an intervention by the president, who recalled that these funds were off-budget precisely so that they would not be a part of the budget. Otherwise, it should merely be a question of liquidating them. It is odd that no one "recalled" this earlier.

Remembering last year's twofold blunder of the government forecast, the deputies tried persistently to elicit on what the procedure of calculation this year was based and whether the discomfiture would not be repeated. The explanation was, apparently, accepted. There remained many complaints about the budget, nonetheless. A version proposed by one deputy made it possible to avoid getting bogged down in them: although with certain amendments on the expenditure side, adopt the budget as it is—for the last time. So that the government may not next year count on so easy an outcome.

So the first step is the hardest. Seeing that the government intends to start work on the 1995 budget in May.

Tatarstan Oil Producer Protests Excise Duty

MK0605135295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 6 May 95 p 3

[Report by Galina Pechilina: "The Tatarstan Government Has Decided To Collect Taxes in Crude Oil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The idea of collecting taxes from enterprises not in cash but in kind is becoming increasingly popular with Russian regions. The Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers issued three decrees in a row establishing an original scheme for taxing the joint stock company Tatneft: Instead of paying the excise duty, the enterprise is to cede to the authorities 1.312 million tonnes of oil. Tatneft, however, protested this decision, considering it disadvantageous.

Attempts to charge in-kind taxes from enterprises are becoming a fashion among Russian regional authorities: Not so long ago, for instance, a similar initiative was advanced by St. Petersburg City Hall. This is quite explicable: The authorities do not want to let the enterprises get out of paying their debts to the budget by citing a lack of funds.

The originality of the Tatarstan Government decision on Tatneft lies merely in the fact that this enterprise, generally speaking, had no indebtedness and can well pay its taxes in regular money. Moreover, until now the republic government has granted this joint stock company exemptions in paying the oil excise tax. Under an interstate agreement between the Russian Federation and the Tatarstan Republic, all of the oil excise tax revenues are directed into the Tatarstan state treasury, while the republic government may tax certain enterprises at lower rates. In 1994, Tatneft paid the excise tax at a rate of 10,000 and then even 5,000 rubles per tonne (the official rate was 20,000 rubles per tonnes). As of this February the rate for Tatnet was, however, increased to 20,000 rubles; even so, this was a preferential rate: Other enterprises had to pay 39,200.

Such an idyllic picture continued until Tatarstan's budget crisis became too obvious: For instance, there were no funds in the budget to pay for food imports. It was then that the authorities refused to charge the excise tax in cash and asked for delivery of 1.312 million tonnes of crude oil to the government. Subsequently it was to be transferred to the joint stock company Suvar, a special exporter of Tatarstan oil. The export receipts will be used to repay a $77 million credit received from the Russian Federation Foreign Trade Bank ($22 million of this sum was used to pay for the import of wheat and raw sugar and $33 million for mineral fertilizer).

However, Tatneft reacted with no particular enthusiasm to the government decrees establishing such a scheme. It argued that the replacement is clearly unequal: The sum of the excise tax is included in the internal oil price, while the Tatarstan Cabinet of Ministers will sell the oil at world prices. According to the company's estimates, the sum of the tax it is charged is overassessed by a factor of 1.62: The joint stock company's losses will approximate 200 million rubles.

True, while protesting the government's decision, Tatneft clearly deemed it inexpedient to spoil relations with the authorities, and proposed a compromise. In particular, the company is ready to assume responsibility for repaying the credit indebtedness by remitting the hard currency equivalent of the excise tax due every month. Another option is to pay the excise tax in oil but on the condition that the government sells it not on the foreign market but on the internal market. It is noteworthy that the government has also decided so far not to take a tough line, and postponed the enactment of the decrees until a compromise has been reached.

Spring Thaws Cause Floods in Northern Russia

MM0905101495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 95 Weekend Edition p 11

[Report by Yelena Baskakova: "Ice Melts — Bombs Fly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The flood situation caused by melting snow has worsened dramatically in Northern Russia. Bulletins from the press service of the Ministry for Emergency Situations are reminiscent of reports from combat zones. Operations involving the "precision" bombing, mining, and undermining of ice gorges are being carried out. Though on the whole the current flood did not originally foreshadow especial problems.

Three herds of livestock belonging to the "Rossiya" and "Yarsalinskiy" State Farms wintering in the Khenskiye pastures fell into a trap. Following the thaw, rising water flooded a large part of the territory. Now rescue work is being carried out in this region. People are being taken out by helicopter, but several thousand deer will have to risk crossing to dry land on their own.

Nor has the natural cataclysm bypassed fishermen. There are hundreds of fishermen in Obskaya Guba. Fortunately, they have been successfully evacuated. But their catch, their nets, and their equipment were left on the ice. If all this sinks to the bottom, the teams of the Novoportovskiy Fish Hatchery will be left without the pay which is supposed to ensure them the "subsistence minimum" until the end of the year and the possibility of going onto the ice again in the fall.

Even with the aid of aerial bombing it has so far not been possible to destroy the ice gorge formed in the lower reaches of the Shilka River in Chita Oblast. The 30 100-kg bombs dropped from helicopters did not manage to break the mighty ice dam formed by nature which runs to more than 20 km in length.

One population center has been flooded by high waters, and the water level in the river is continuing to rise. A group of officers of the Transbaykal Military District Engineering Troops has arrived in the economic disaster zone. Army specialists will assess the situation and suggest an effective means of destroying the dam.

The protective dike in the Khor River, 120 km southeast of Khabarovsk, has burst as a result of ice gorges and water levels have risen dramatically. The kray's civil defense staff has sent an operations group to assess the situation in Srednekhorskiy Rayon, where 15 homes have been flooded.

Large ice gorges have formed in the Pechora River. Thus in the section between the villages of Yermitsa and Lezhdut the water level has risen to 1,160 cm, which is way above the critical mark. Virtually all inhabitants have been evacuated from the flooded homes. The water level in the Pechora River dropped when May Day brought colder weather. The situation in the region is being monitored by the oblast flood commission.

Nevertheless, at another section of this river flood waters have engulfed villages in the Lower Pechora Valley as a result of the simultaneous opening of the ice. Gorges of many kilometers in size are retaining their water alongside the villages of Toshviska and Velikovisochnoye in Nenetsk National Okrug. Their inhabitants have urgently moved to safe places. Telephone communications with the okrug center of Naryan-Marom are operating on an emergency basis, and electricity and boiler houses have been shut off. Livestock farms have been flooded.

Here too the authorities have tried to launch a "war" against the ice, trying to blow up the gorges both on the territory of Komi — in the upper reaches of the Pechora River — and on the territory of Nenetsk Okrug in the lower reaches of the river. Almost 60 tonnes of explosives have been laid — all in vain. The net result was a purely psychological, but very costly assault. Therefore the okrug's flood commission has decided to suspend explosions this week. Evidently they are waiting for nature to show good sense...

Yabloko Faction Opposes Russia's Choice Union

954F2227A Murmansk POLYARNAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 95 p 2

[Interview with Sergey Mitrokhin, State Duma deputy and member of the Yabloko faction, by Andrey Sharomov; place and date not given: "Yabloko Faction in Dispute with Ideological Opponents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The less time there is remaining until the next elections of deputies, the more disturbed many voters are becoming by the split in the democratic camp. The question arises: Will such a confrontation not lead to a strengthening of the opponents of democracy? Therefore, today one so frequently hears the appeal and even the demand for democrats "to put aside their pride" and unite. Ye. Gaydar has repeatedly expressed readiness to unite with G. Yavlinskiy's faction. However, Yabloko invariably emphasizes that it is categorically against this kind of alliance.**

Journalist Andrey Sharomov asked Sergey Mitrokhin, State Duma deputy and member of the Yabloko faction, to explain Yabloko's position regarding this problem.

[Sharomov] Sergey Sergeyevich, I want to think that Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's personal ambition is not a factor here. Is there a more serious reason?

[Mitrokhin] I would never join a faction in which ambitions play a main role. Yabloko and Russia's Choice are completely different political forces that have diametrically opposed ideas about what constitutes democracy, reforms, society... We are consciously in opposition to the radical democrats of the "Yeltsin group of conscripts" to which Russia's Choice members also belong. It is already obvious today that the "Choice" that Yeltsin and Gaydar imposed on Russia has turned into a cynical bluff and has been rejected by a majority of the population. Unification with Russia's Choice would be equivalent to political suicide for Yabloko.

[Sharomov] Why does the political policy of Russia's Choice not suit you?

[Mitrokhin] Probably, first and foremost, because a dual morality has been placed at the base of this policy. For example: They are demanding the application of the full force of the law to fascists, but they themselves justify any illegal action of the authorities if it is directed against their political opponents. That is, it would seem that the law must not be violated, but when it is to their advantage—then it is permitted and even necessary.

Dual morality is extremely dangerous in politics. Today Russia's Choice is lashing out at the federal authorities because of Chechnya. But, in the first place, it is not clear why they at one time encouraged the firing on the "White House." After all, for each armed person there were also several unarmed persons—the same kind of peaceful citizens as those who perished in Chechnya. Second, none other than Russia's Choice supported the Constitution, which concentrated enormous and uncontrolled authority in the hands of the president. It was advantageous then, because it made it possible for B. Yeltsin to subdue the "irreconcilable opposition." But was it really not obvious that this same authority could be employed for entirely different reasons? So, it turned out that Russia's Choice today does not have the moral right to condemn the actions of the president in Chechnya.

[Sharomov] Is it possible in such a case to view Russia's Choice as a democratic movement?

[Mitrokhin] It is impossible, if we adhere to the exact sense of the word. The fact is that the radical democrats never set the achievement of democracy as their goal. Democracy is first of all a system of distribution of authority that prevents its too dangerous concentration in one center. But the task of the radicals, starting in 1991, consisted of concentrating more and more authority in B. Yeltsin's hands. What was important for them was not how authority is distributed, but what persons are in authority.

[Sharomov] But was it possible to start reforms without strong presidential authority?

[Mitrokhin] You must not mix up strong authority and uncontrolled authority. This confusion has led us to irreparable consequences: Lacking control from outside, the authority lost the incentive to control itself from within—as a result, we did not get authority that was strong, but one that was demoralized and dangerous for society.

[Sharomov] Let us return to the divergence with Russia's Choice. What alternative does Yabloko offer?

[Mitrokhin] The confrontational model of politics that is characteristic of radicals of any color, including democratic, is not acceptable to us. The radicals view politics as a struggle of one part of society against another. But it is impossible to conduct any effective reforms whatsoever against a background of confrontation.

In contrast to this, stability was and remains Yabloko's priority in politics. We proceed from the confidence that coming to an agreement with political opponents and reaching a compromise with them is always more profitable in the final analysis than getting bogged down in a fruitless and tiring struggle. The priority of stability also denotes something else—we are opponents of the conduct of experiments on society.

[Sharomov] What do you mean by experiments?

[Mitrokhin] By experiments I have in mind political measures with an unpredictable outcome. The Gaydar reforms of 1992 are a typical example of unpredictable policy. Many consequences of these reforms—such as the price revolution, the landslide drop in production, and the sharp social stratification and collapse in the standard of living—could have been foreseen, and measures could have been taken beforehand to alleviate them. But all of this proved to be a surprise for the reformers, not to mention for the population, which was taken unawares. A very simple conclusion is drawn from this regrettable experience: Our society will not survive one more experiment. Every major change in policy and the economy should be carefully reasoned out and intelligibly explained to the people. This is one of Yabloko's central principles—the principle of predictable policy.

[Sharomov] By reform in this country is meant most of all the introduction of a free market. Does a difference exist in the understanding between Yabloko and Russia's Choice as to just what such a market is?

[Mitrokhin] We differ very strongly on the concept of ways to make the transition to a market system. The key precept that divides Yabloko from Russia's Choice is the view of the role of the state in the process of forming a market economy. As opposed to Gaydar followers, Yavlinskiy supporters think that the state cannot "leave" the economy until conditions are created to prevent the monopolization and criminalization of the market. After all, the market is a very young phenomenon in Russia, and can be likened to a child. Since the time of perestroyka our radical marketers have been propagandizing the view that the child should be left to its own devices as soon as possible. Free it from guardianship, they say, and you will soon get a normal person. But on removing parental control, the child will immediately fall under the influence of street riffraff. Something similar has also happened with our economy. We proceed from the fact that the state does not have the right at one fine moment to leave the economy permanently. This would be the height of irresponsibility on its part. The task of the state in the transition period is to clearly realize and steadfastly perform its new role in the economy—not direct administrative diktat, but to guarantee conditions for the normal functioning of the market. There is no end of work here: investments in promising industries, the creation of a system of professional retraining, the organization of a civilized process of bankruptcy, support for small and medium-sized business, i.e., everything for which the government now allots such scant resources in the budget.

The state is obliged to apply maximum efforts to ensure that the decline in the standard of living and the sharp differences in incomes are reduced to a minimum while conducting reforms. Such matters as culture and science—the intellectual and moral potential of society—also cannot be abandoned to the arbitrariness of market elements. It is impermissible to give up the environment, on whose condition the health of the present and future generations depends, "to be torn apart" by the market.

[Sharomov] But can the state fulfill all these functions, as thoroughly stricken with corruption as it is?

[Mitrokhin] The most necessary condition for the fight against crime and corruption is the will of the country's political leadership, which today is paralyzed. Incidentally, the influence of radical democrats who justified corruption as a form of primary accumulation of capital was also not avoided here. It is they who are to blame for the fact that many people today identify democracy with corruption.

But for us it is obvious that the presence of corruption in the organs of state authority cannot be justified by any political, economic, or profit considerations. Society should not under any circumstances suffer damage from the selfish interests of private persons. By not coping with the crime within itself, the state will not be able to protect citizens from criminals. But this is what constitutes its paramount duty.

[Sharomov] What do you think of Boris Fedorov and the party he has created? Are there in general political forces with which you could join in a coalition?

[Mitrokhin] Boris Fedorov was an active member of Gaydar's team and together with him bears complete responsibility for the unsuccessful reforms. Moreover, he was and remains an orthodox monetarist—that is, a follower of the teaching that has already played a destructive role in the Russian economy.

Murmansk: No More State Credits for North

954F2228A Murmansk POLYARNAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by T. Kolyasnikova: "The State Will No Longer Give Credits to the North, But the Governor Guarantees: We Will Deliver Food"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is as though we are in a perpetual winter. The snow has not yet melted, and it is already necessary to fight for our survival in the coming winter. This problem was discussed the other day at a meeting of the collegium of the oblast administration.

The conditions are tougher today than previously. The North will be given credit only for fuel, and for everything else—foodstuffs, medicines, etc.—find the money yourselves. True, the government is considering the possibility of reserving to the territories resources that are coming in for the payment of federal credits and the interest from them. The oblast administration is counting on this, and is making preliminary plans.

But last year the resources promised the North were not commensurate with the requirements. And nobody in the oblast knew what kind of sums would be forthcoming and when. Even the interdepartmental commission established specifically for administration of the regional financial support fund. Thus the organization for the delivery of fuel and foodstuffs, according to the evaluations of the speakers, resembled a rush job, with its inherent confusion.

There were hundreds who wished to receive favorable credits, but no one agreed to deliver foodstuffs farther than Murmansk, to remote villages and settlements, and hardly anybody was able to receive bank guarantees for the return of loans. The consumer cooperative which in previous years at the very least supplied the remote rayons acknowledged its inability to engage in its traditional work. The Lovozerskiy and Umbskiy cooperatives simply turned over their unprofitable bakeries and stores to the rayon administrations, which established an alternative municipal trade.

Citing tonnes of delivered cargoes and billions of spent rubles, A.A. Lukichev (a member of the commission and chairman of the Committee on Trade and Interregional Ties) stated at the meeting: "...the commission has coped with its task. The residents of remote rayons are guaranteed all that is necessary according to prices that do not exceed the average oblast prices."

This quote will probably amaze the residents of those same rayons. V.I. Voloshin, chief of administration of Severomorsk, noted that there is dissatisfaction in Teriberka with the meager assortment and the high prices, and in Dalniye Zelentsy—"Well, I do not know what to do." The "last of the Mohicans" remain there, 300 residents and a single commercial store, which is sometimes open and sometimes closed; the nearest military store is three kilometers away.

It is also not known what to do with other residents—in garrison settlements already abandoned by military units.

The proposals submitted by A.A. Lukichev to resolve the problems of next winter were not even objectively considered. Basically there was a request to delay the return of credits and to relax the penalty and tax pressure. But no one has suffered from fines as yet. All the controlling organs are awaiting the end of contracts of organizations and enterprises with the oblast administration. Only V.A. Klochkov, the oblast procurator, thinks it was necessary to implement a law even yesterday. The question concerns the purposeful use of favorable credits allocated in the period of foodstuff delivery. According to data received by the KRU [Control-Auditing Administration], violations of this kind were established in seven organizations. The oblast administration and the oblast office of the federal treasury were informed. Inasmuch as there was no reaction, the Procuracy submitted a statement to them: Undertake urgent measures to return resources illegally used by merchants and make responsible officials who relaxed controls answerable. There was no kind of enthusiasm in reply.

V.A. Klochkov did not mention the violators. But the attendees had already heard about the Relaks firm. Ye.B. Komarov, chief of the oblast administration, proposed that the head of the firm step up and explain himself. He explained himself—everything looks quite innocent. Moreover, turning to Yu.N. Myasnikov, chief of the treasury, he ingenuously asked confirmation of the fact that with his, the treasury's, authorization the firm spent R600 million of favorable credit for its own needs.

The KRU does not know how to treat this: Relaks, nevertheless, also did purchase food as well...

Not long before this, speaker Yu.N. Myasnikov warned that all- round audits were in the offing. Invariably there will be a fine for commodities acquired by an organization on a loan that are not socially significant. First and foremost, for alcohol. But the chiefs of rayon administrations who are responsible for life in the remote settlements believe that alcohol, chocolate, and tobacco are also socially significant commodities.

They are not on the list that authorizes purchases. And there is no soap or nails. Yu.Z. Berger, deputy head of the oblast administration, thinks that the celebrated list has to be submitted for approval to the oblast Duma, "and only then let someone protest."

Well, how will last year's violators be investigated, those who paid with loan money for items that were unauthorized and did not employ it according to instructions? We will not find this out soon: The FSB [Federal Security Service] must conduct its audit, and the treasury its audit, and then the KRU will take a position. In the meantime the oblast procuracy, which already has its own point of view on the facts, has ended up in a strange opposition. V.A. Klochkov was told for all to hear: "If there are violations, it is necessary to appeal to the court and not to the newspaper."

What was meant was VECHERNIY MURMANSK, which had published an article by journalist N. Sosnina on inappropriate use of state credits. Ye.B. Komarov declared: "The article was made to order, this is clear." Later, Yevgeniy Borisovich explained: "...Many people do not like the administration and the fact that it is working, and it is necessary to supercharge the situation. But I request that either the documents be produced so that the guilty parties can be punished, or the suspicion be removed. Rest assured, I will give the information to the press."

Well, we will wait until the next snow; it is unlikely we will hear any sooner. The next delivery will start much earlier. How it will be handled is not very clear, the collegium did not confirm the draft decision—a correction is necessary. They will write in it, for example, that there should now be representatives of the tax police and the FSB among the organs that control the dissemination of resources.

The administration's attitude toward the future season is very businesslike. Ye.B. Komarov uttered words like an oath: "...I give a 100 percent guarantee that we will deliver food, whether anyone likes this or not. We will allocate the money from the budget, and we will deliver it. This is our money—it is not under your control!"

Was the oblast procurator apparently supposed to accept this on his own account? Will he really oppose prosperity in Kanevka or Sosnovka?

Siberia's 10th Oblast Council Session Views Budget

954F2199A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[L. Semenova report: "The Budget Is a Delicate Matter: Notes From the 10th Session of the Oblast Soviet of Deputies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Power means money since money means opportunities. But also the perfectly specific result of industrial-economic and any other policy. The discussion of the budget at sessions of the oblast council is never "boring," therefore.

This was the case on this occasion also. A whole "sector" of interested parties—senior officials of the oblast administration, federal services, and so forth—was in the plenary meeting hall for discussion of the oblast budget—the first item on the agenda.

But the traditional budget passions are not being displayed now. Following the report of the administration on the execution of the budget for 1994 and on the oblast budget for 1995 that was delivered by N.R. Yakunin, deputy chief of the Office of Finance and Tax Policy, only three persons had put their names down for the debate initially. Then the list of speakers grew. But this was still not the kind of discussion that it used to be, when anyone who had anything on his mind would express it. Today, first, everyone has something "on his mind," and, second, work on the budget is done not in the meeting hall but long before the session, in committees and commissions of the council, where the deputies, with the enlistment of specialists, if necessary, make an in-depth analysis of the material presented by the administration. Here, at the session, on the other hand, it was a question of what the representatives of the two branches of power had been unable to agree on ahead of time and of their reconciling this or the other.

It is hard, of course, to get used to the fact that the oblast can no longer permit itself to plan development. It is having to cut its coat according to its cloth. "We are choosing not between bad and good," I. Indinok explained the situation in simple terms, "but between bad and very bad."

Translated into figures, the comparison of requirements and possibilities looks like this: In order to survive and exist as a socioeconomic mechanism, the oblast needs approximately 13 trillion rubles. A year. Revenue is planned in an amount of only R3 trillion.

Whether the "shock" effect on which the governor was, possibly, counting came off, I do not know. Because the speakers disagreed with this "slicing" of the budget pie.

Nor were they enraptured by the idea of a "deficit-free" budget.

The absolute figures are these: The consolidated budget for 1994 was fulfilled in terms of revenue 86.2 percent, which means that there was an oblast treasury "shortfall" of more than R270 billion.

The reason is clear: The main receipts, which come from a rising budget and value added, are during a recession like a stream that is running dry.

In addition, as of April of last year the territories have been keeping not half of the value-added tax, as before, but only one- fourth.

And oblast expenditure increased by a factor of 4.3 in 1994 compared with 1993!

It should be emphasized here that the oblast budget "shouldered" additional expenditure on this occasion. Specifically, we had to take on the departmental social sphere and housing—this is an extra R94 billion of expenditure, R31 billion for the purchase of grain for oblast stocks.

Our oblast's financial position has been made worse also by the fact that there continues to be the unfair-share "tradition."

Whereas on average in Russia the budget provision of an inhabitant constitutes R161,000 a year, in Omsk, R217,200, and Kemerovo, R301,700, the Novosibirsk "soul" is allocated only R119,000 from the state budget.

Previously it was customary to heap the whole blame for the fact that Moscow does not love us on the unaccommodating Mukh, but nor has the present communicative governor been able to change this trend either.

The documents presented to the deputies provide information on how the oblast administration "made shift," endeavoring to eliminate the budget deficit and to replenish the budget itself. This is the administration's duty—to at least keep the oblast afloat.

The deputies were more concerned about something else—whether it "replenished" the budget actively and whether it distributed the income fairly. Specifically, why do the figures of the Finance Office and the Tax Inspectorate for the taxes collected on the territory not match up?

Almost all the deputies who spoke and also S. Kiselnikov, chairman of the oblast council's Economics Committee, and G. Ivashchenko, who delivered the supporting report, put the emphasis on this.

"An error crept in"—this was the version of some officials. The money is "on the way"—between the legal entity and the banks—was a second version. But there was a third version also—"the money is being put to work somewhere in the interests of someone or other."

Even the head of the oblast administration, who spoke in conclusion, expressed concern at such "unevenness" in the books.

Certain other figures do not match up either. Specifically, Deputy P. Isayev expressed bewilderment: "So what is the percentage of the taxes collected in the oblast that remains on the territory—59 or 71?" An interesting question, as they say.

It was not the first time at sessions with this agenda that the deputies had demanded a more thorough analysis of the activity of a multitude of off-budget funds, their share of the oblast budget being almost 50 percent. The deputies are insisting on audits being performed to bring clarity in respect to the receipt and expenditure of the resources of these funds. And there is no longer any doubt that all is not "perfect" here. The Fund for Social Support of the Populace, which, according to unchecked data, is "fiddling" in some way with the privatization checks and, possibly, "turning over" the money for the poor in favor of the rich, figured as an example.

The deputies had other—new—old questions also. Specifically, concerning the funding of our German Information Center, which has been instituted anew, and expenditure on the Siberian Agreement and also the Transsibavia, which has become the talk of the town.

Some information was obtained at the session, which it was suggested be taken on trust, [word illegible] posterity will be proud that we built an international airport," Ivan Ivanovich promised.

Perhaps this is so. A crane in the clouds is far more attractive than a terrestrial blue tit. But the information of V. Krivoshchekov, deputy chairman of the municipal assembly, that the city's request concerning the purchase from oblast budget funds of two electric trains had been turned down—"no money"—nce again induced doubt as to what should be chosen—the prospect of high "skies" or the acute need of the townspeople, who have to a man become agrarians on their own plots? G. Ivashchenko, deputy chairman of a committee of the oblast council, in his supporting report referred to this fact as an example of the missing accord between the administration and the council.

He voiced concern in connection with the possibilities of the financing of social programs and the financing of the agrarian sector.

A varying attitude was expressed in the debate toward the financing of agricultural production. Even the governor believes that it is time for us to make up our minds what is more important for us: to support agricultural production (any, even unprofitable, production) or the food market. The latter is, as you understand, cheaper. But this means breaking up the countryside, neglecting the land, and becoming hostages to market conditions, more precisely, to the tender mercies of foreign countries.

Putting the emphasis on the 10 percent strong farms, judging by the budget that was presented, the administration had preliminarily dwelt on such a strategy. The vast majority of deputies disagreed with this. Specifically, V.L. Ugnenko believes that agricultural production needs not charity and not so much subsidies as timely installment payments on contracts.

The head of the Dovolenskaya Administration proposes that the funding of the agrarian sector be maintained at least at last year's level.

Where are the sources of the funding to be found? Deputy Ugnenko submitted a proposal for an increase in the revenue side of the budget thanks to repayable loans.

He disagreed with the ideology of the formation of a regional grain fund since no provision is made for the indexing of the advance payments, and the farms are fully "regulated." Grain production on such conditions would become disadvantageous.

The problem of loans and the absence of conditions and documents regulating their allocation surfaced in the course of the discussion.

The question of the council's exercise of its command authority arose also. The deputies are convinced that a mechanism of interaction with administration making it possible to exercise supervision of the budget "on the go" and to obtain interim information has not been perfected. The information on the expenditure of budget resources which is made available, council Chairman A.P. Sychev observed, lacks, as a rule, adequate substantiation: For what purpose are the outlays made and at the expense of what?

There was specific mention of overseas travel.

A.P. Sychev emphasized the need to accelerate the elaboration of documents on the council's actual exercise of control functions pertaining to the formation and execution of the budget.

Two of the speakers moved that the execution of the budget for 1994 be approved, but a proposal of the Economics Committee that the report on execution of the budget be noted and not be approved pending the receipt of answers to the questions raised in committees of the oblast council was adopted.

As far as the budget for 1995 is concerned, it passed in its first reading.

Almost all committees and commissions of the council presented amendments and proposals, for an increase in spending, in the main.

The administration of the oblast, to judge by the speech of I. Indinok, is respectful of the opinions and proposals of the deputies: It agreed to do more work on the budget and to provide exhaustive information on the questions that the deputies and the public might have. But at the same time he called for greater trust.

Harassment of Vladivostok Mayor Chronicled

954F2223A Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 16-23 Apr 95 No 26, p 8

["MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI Dossier"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Viktor Cherepkov: "The criminal world had become the most influential force in the Maritime Region by the beginning of 1993."**

7 July 1993. Officer Viktor Cherepkov, a Far Eastern civil rights defender, is elected mayor of Vladivostok.

31 July 1993. City authorities receive the mayor's decision concerning free travel on public transportation for all categories of city residents.

23 November 1993. The Maritime Kray Commission for Emergency Situations proposes to dismiss Vladivostok Administration head Viktor Cherepkov. The first snowfall paralyzed the city, but no equipment came out onto the streets inasmuch as Vladivostok's public services had broken down in the four months of Viktor Cherepkov's government.

13 February 1994. Law enforcement organs seize the city administration building in Vladivostok. Viktor Cherepkov is practically arrested. On Friday, when the workday ended, a large group of armed people, together with Vyacheslav Yaroshenko, the city procurator, go up to the floor where the mayor's office is located. Without bringing any charges, they block the floor and conduct a search in the mayor's working office and relaxation room. After the search they drive Cherepkov to the rayon procuracy, where they detain him until 0900. Simultaneously with the search of the office, another group of militia employees conduct a search of Cherepkov's apartment. After the search, Vladimir, the 19-year-old son of the mayor, is taken into custody on suspicion of committing a crime...last year. The Vladivostok public demands an explanation from the kray authorities.

1 March 1994. The scandal associated with Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov and his 19-year-old son Vladimir unexpectedly has an opposite effect. Residents evaluate the actions of the law enforcement organs that conducted the search of the mayor's office and those who arrested his son as arbitrariness, and "in revenge" nominate both Cherepkovs as candidates to local organs of authority. Viktor Cherepkov is registered as a candidate to the kray Duma and his son, a student at a Navy school, runs for the city Duma.

17 March 1994. Vladivostok Administration head Viktor Cherepkov and his immediate assistants are removed from the positions they occupy by special purpose forces.

17 March 1994. According to the instructions of Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting procurator general of Russia, the senior investigator for especially important affairs under the Procuracy General initiates a criminal proceeding with respect to Vladivostok Mayor Cherepkov. It was instituted in February 1994 on a complaint by citizens concerning officials in the Vladivostok administration receiving bribes.

18 March 1994. The criminal case regarding Vladivostok Mayor Cherepkov is temporarily suspended.

22 March 1994. After receiving news that the Procuracy General of Russia had become involved in the case of the former mayoralty of Vladivostok, the dismissed mayor ends his hunger strike.

2 December 1994. The criminal case regarding Viktor Cherepkov, mayor of the city of Vladivostok, accused of receiving bribes, is terminated due to the absence of corpus delicti.

16 December 1994. The process of reinstating administrative workers illegally discharged in connection with the "case" of former Vladivostok Mayor Viktor Cherepkov begins. The court satisfied the suits of Peter Bezukladnikov, former supervisor of the Committee for Management of City Property, and Igor Krutykh, chief of administration of Frunzenskiy Rayon of the kray center, who were dismissed from their positions in the spring of 1994.

23 December 1994. President of Russia Boris Yeltsin relieves Viktor Cherepkov, chief of administration of Vladivostok, "...for violating Russian Federation legislation and protracted nonperformance of his duties."

The defendant is not appearing before the court that is examining the suit brought by Viktor Cherepkov against Boris Yeltsin.

Economic Issues

Daily on Livshits' 1996 Budget News Conference

MM0905090395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 95 First Edition p 1

[Article by Vyacheslav Goncharov: "Shape of 1996 Budget. President's Message Being Prepared in Atmosphere of Consensus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Presidential aide Aleksandr Livshits announced at a routine news conference that the president had decided to prepare and send to the government and Federal Assembly the budget message for 1996.

The brief message will merely set out the ideology behind the 1996 budget and map its contours without supplying details. This will distinguish it from the voluminous annual messages. According to Aleksandr Livshits, the new document will fill a gap in the exercise of the president's power functions and will be an intermediate link between the annual budget messages and specific decisions in the form of instructions and edicts.

Parliamentarians, academics, and public figures representing the most diverse views and positions have been brought in to work on the important document. They have now all sent in proposals, each supplying his own constructive element. This means actuating a consensus mechanism at the very first stage of the elaboration of the 1996 budget.

Turning to the actual budget for 1996, Aleksandr Livshits said that it is still too early to talk about any figures. But, he said, the 1996 budget will be elaborated and will then be implemented within relatively limited parameters. It is now clear that there will be a real reduction in the tax burden next year and this will affect the producer above all. Which, in turn, will give rise to the problem of making up lost income. There will also be an increase in internal and external debt payments.

Central Bank Instruction on Formation of Reserves

MM0905115895 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 5 May 95 p 1

[Report by Bank of Russian Press Service under the rubric "For Bankers To Take Note": "Reserves Like Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having discussed the results of meetings with a number of leaders of commercial banks, as well as the questions examined at a 26 April 1995 enlarged sitting of the Board of the Association of Russian Banks, the Russian Federation Central Bank Board of Directors has issued instructions on the procedure for applying Addendum No. 2 to the "Statute on the Procedure for the Formation of an Obligatory Reserves Fund for Commercial Banks and Credit Institutions at the Central Bank of the Russian Federation."

In these instructions the Bank of Russia informs commercial banks that only attracted funds are subject to the formation of an obligatory reserve at the Bank of Russia. Proceeding from the particular features of the accounting records for foreign currency transactions in the banks, the Bank of Russia instructs that sums of interest calculated but not paid on deposits and interbank credits, as well as dividends paid to shareholders, be excluded from the funds subject to reserve formation.

Funds which have been transferred in payment for shares being issued and which are in a commercial bank cumulative account are not subject to inclusion in the calculation of obligatory reserves. At the same time, the Bank of Russia points out that an excess of liabilities over assets counts toward attracted money on transactions connected with the purchase and sale of foreign currency by individuals and legal entities (including banks).

At the same time, at the request of commercial banks which have not made the necessary amendments to their software, the Bank of Russia has granted them the right to regulate obligatory reserves as of 1 May 1995 on the basis of a choice: either on the basis of the residues of the attracted funds according to the balance on the first of the month, or the average daily residues according to the daily balances for April of this year.

[Signed] Press Service of the Bank of Russia

New Savings Law Seen as 'Unbridled Populism'

MM0905100495 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from the "Inform" column: "You Can't Eat a Cake Twice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before reading the text of the Law on Restoring and Protecting Russian Federation Citizens' Savings, approved by the Federation Council, attention should be drawn to its title — the stylistic subterfuge concealed in it could speak volumes. The law is not yet about returning savings, but only about restoring them! That is to say, it is proposed to theoretically recognize the existence of the state's debt created by the liberalization of prices and the devaluation of citizens' savings. However, there is not one word in the entire law about how these "restored" savings will be returned. N. Gonchar, chairman of the Federation Council Budget and Financial Committee, expounded the hypothesis that these funds should be used during the second phase of privatization by converting them into yet another type of voucher. However, it is too early, I repeat, to speak of anything specific — the law bears a so-called "market" character, that is to say, it is worth nothing without many additional specific laws. Thus it is yet another political declaration of the "Children, let us live honestly" type.

I calculate that to revive the dead savings the state needs approximately 500 trillion rubles — and this figure will grow in line with inflation. Budget revenues for the whole year are not much more than a third of this, therefore to speak of returning money to Savings Bank investors is unbridled populism which has nothing to do with real life. The debt to citizens should be settled in property which still belongs to the state. And here at once arises a second "but": First, there are enough people who want a share in that property even without the ordinary citizens. Second, no one could guarantee that the saga that occurred with vouchers would not repeat itself — they promised equality of opportunity to all, but only those who could get hold of it without using vouchers got their slice of the cake.

Minister Denies Grain Harvest Reduction Reports

MM0905102295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Euphoria Has Passed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The draft program for the stabilization and development of the Russian Federation's agricultural production for 1996-2000 approved the day before yesterday by the Federation Council reflects an understanding of the fact that only our peasants can feed the 150 million-strong Russian people. This was stated by Aleksandr Nazarchuk, Russian Federation minister of agriculture and food. The euphoria over the fact that we can buy food abroad in exchange for coal and oil has passed.

The minister expressed himself against "dramatizing the situation" with regard to the sowing campaign. He denied reports which have appeared in the press of the forthcoming reduction of the grain harvest in Russia.

International Affairs

Kiev Mayor Ready for Clinton 'Tough Questions'

WS0905080195 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 May 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Henrykh Sikorskyy: "Kiev Mayor Is Preparing To Respond to Clinton's Tough Questions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev is preparing for a visit by the U.S. President. On 11 May, the high-ranking guest will visit various sights in the Ukrainian capital, in particular, Andiriyivskyy Uzvis street. Naturally, the city council chairman will act as his "guide." As has become known from well-informed sources, [Kiev Mayor] Mr. Kosakivskyy is seriously preparing for the possibility that Bill Clinton may suddenly raise questions concerning the recent decisive measures taken by our city authorities with regard to a number of foreign investors, such as, for example, the "Makulan" and "Regina" companies, or others. As everybody knows, they are currently doing everything possible to create a negative image of Kiev as a city which is unfavorable to investors.

Therefore, Mr. Kosakivskyy has commissioned his two deputies — Valentyn Shevalev and the recently appointed Valeriy Tsybukh — to carefully consider arguments to defend the city executive committee's stance on this delicate issue.

"About what kind of arguments can one talk," Mr. Shevalev asked a KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent while commenting on this report, "if everything is clear. Let us look at the incident with the 'Makulan' company. Even given our poverty, we must not waive our spiritual treasures: After all, the Bessarabian street market — where the company wants to erect an office and hotel center — is an architectural monument. We must proceed from this fact. I am convinced that the company has understood us correctly, and it will revise its concept for the planned center. The situation with the 'Regina' firm is different: It suddenly proved that Kiev's share in this joint venture was completely insignificant, and it did not correspond to the city's contribution. So there is no reason to blame the city authorities."

FRY Deputy Premier Discusses Crisis Settlement

LD0805151495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, May 8 (Interfax-Ukraine) — Yugoslav Vice-Premier Nikola Sainovic currently in Kiev on a one-day working visit met Ukrainian Vice-Premiers Petr Sablyuk and Valeriy Shmarov on Monday [8 May].

The closed-door meeting discussed settlement of the crisis situation in the Balkans and bilateral cooperation with due account of the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia, sources told Interfax-Ukraine.

The Yugoslav side praised the Ukrainian active participation in settlement of crisis in former Yugoslavia, sources at the Defence Ministry's press service told Interfax-Ukraine.

The Yugoslav Vice-Premier estimated his Kiev visit as rather rich in content in a brief interview with correspondents.

Relations With Czech Republic, Slovakia Reviewed

WS0805143695 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian No. 16 (174) 28 Apr-3 May 95 p 2

[Article by Oleh Dorozhovets: "Ukraine Offers the Czech Republic an Unexpected Barter Deal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **One of the few people fortunate to have the opportunity to consume an Easter egg in the company of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma was his Czech counterpart Vaclav Havel. Although Easter was celebrated in the Czech Republic a week earlier, nobody would refuse to observe the great Christian holiday twice. And a conversation with a glass of vodka and some ham, as a rule, is of an unconstrained nature.**

As a matter of fact, it was the first solo visit to East Europe by Leonid Kuchma. Before that, he had once or twice attended large international forums. And Central Europeans themselves had been looking askance at the Ukrainian leader since the latter is opposed to NATO's eastward expansion. Some water has flowed under the bridge since then, however, and the politician's opinions have changed slightly. Kuchma went to Prague with an offer of a specific barter deal: Ukraine supports the Czech Republic's desire to join the ranks of the North Atlantic alliance, and the Czech Republic lobbies for Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe.

Such an exchange of favors is how both sides win. The Czechs would remove an unwanted obstacle to their demands, and that would have to be repayed with this relatively small favor. After all, it makes no difference to Prague whether or not Ukraine will be a member of the Council of Europe. For Kiev, however, the Czechs' support is a big deal. It is a Czech, (Jiri Bohl), who supervises Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe. On 13 April, Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, told the head of a Czech delegation visiting Kiev that "if the Czech Republic helps Ukraine join the Council of Europe, Ukraine will support its accession to NATO."

Ukrainian Government members accepted such a diplomatic tandem with the Czechs, also because their country's accession to NATO will not place it directly near the Ukrainian border, which Kuchma fears most. Additionally, recognition of the Ruthenians as a separate nation by the Slovak Government resulted in certain tensions in Slovak-Ukrainian relations. Before that, Kiev had had better relations with Bratislava than with Prague. In the opinion of the Ukrainian leadership, however, the latest step by Bratislava may lead to a political revival of the Ruthenians living in Ukraine, in Transcarpathia.

This unpleasant discrepancy, however, served as a strong impulse for Ukrainian-Slovak contacts [as published]. The Czech Government has promised Kiev technical assistance in privatization. And the Czech process of denationalization is considered exemplary to the entire East European community. On 14 April, representatives of the two countries' Defense Ministries concluded the first agreement on cooperation in Prague. On 26 April, Kuchma and Havel concluded a treaty on friendship and cooperation. The fact that Andriy Ozadovskyy, an adviser at large to our Foreign Ministry (an office which is just below that of deputy minister in terms of importance), has been appointed as the Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic alone confirms that the Kuchma administration is currently attaching great importance to Prague.

Kuchma Criticized for Decision To Visit Moscow

WS0805120095 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian No. 16 (174) 28 Apr-3 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed commentary: "For 9 May, Leonid Kuchma Has Scheduled a Little Stroll With a Great Sculpture"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As a POST-POSTUP correspondent has learned from the Ukrainian Presidential Administration Information Directorate, after some doubts, [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kuchma decided to attend the 9 May ceremony in Moscow commemorating the 50th anniversary of the victory [in World War II]. The Ukrainian president, however, will not participate in the military parade, nor will he hold any official talks. He will arrive in the Russian capital in the afternoon for a few hours, and as early as the evening of 9 May, he will fly back to Kiev. According to Information Directorate Head Mykhaylo Doroshenko, the president will be accompanied by just a few people. They will pay tribute to victims of the Great Patriotic War, and visit a huge memorial the Russian authorities are erecting on the Poklonna Hill. Ukraine will present Russia with one of the sculptures for this memorial.

It seems that the Ukrainian president would like this visit to go unnoticed. On the other hand, however, he has not dared to ignore the Moscow festivities, as the presidents of the Baltic states and Poland did, even though Ukraine, along with these countries, was a country which first became subject to aggression in World War II. In particular, as early as September 1939, first Hitler's and than Soviet troops entered western Ukraine. The 50th anniversary of the victory has thus driven Kuchma into quite a delicate situation. It is uncertain what the Russians represent for his country — more allies or invaders. If they represent allies, then why does Moscow frequently allow itself unfriendly acts toward Kiev. Leonid Kuchma, unfortunately, has not used the opportunity to put the pride of victor out of [Russian President] Boris Yeltsin's head, even to stand alongside the Poles and the Baltics. He could have stayed home and prepared a holiday table for [U.S. President] Clinton. And he could have sent to Moscow, for example, [Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman] Oleksandr Moroz with a group of veterans.

Yeltsin's Adviser Discusses Bilateral Issues

WS0805094595 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 4

[Interview with Dmitriy Ryurikov, international affairs adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Oleg Medvedev; place and date not given: "The Ukrainian Authorities' Intention To Build Statehood Upon Rejection of Special Relations With Russia Is Obvious"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Medvedev] When Leonid Danylovych Kuchma was elected president of Ukraine, quite a few Russian politicians, political researchers, and journalists predicted a breakthrough in Russian-Ukrainian relations, their advance to a qualitatively new level, and so on. We, however, can now state that the process of negotiations between Kiev and Moscow is proceeding with extreme complications. Perhaps bilateral problems proved much more intricate than what they were believed to be at the beginning of this process. What do you think: Why are negotiations progressing so slowly?

[Ryurikov] The matter is not quite as such. The progress in negotiations is completely obvious. This progress is quite tangible and is described in huge amounts. In particular, Russia has undertaken debt restructuring and this move is worth $2.5 million. There are also signs of progress in other areas. After Leonid Danylovych was elected president, progress was achieved in both the mood of negotiations and approaches toward separate issues. Still, some things remain unchangeable, precisely, the psychological attitude that we have not managed to resolve.

[Medvedev] In Ukraine, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's recent statements about Russian-Ukrainian relations and the Crimean problem have been assessed by many people as quite tough. Do you support this viewpoint? Are those who consider that this statement — as well as other statements by representatives of Russian executive and legislative branches — has been triggered by the logical development of election battles, correct?

[Ryurikov] Let the Duma itself be accountable for its activities. With regard to executive power and the president, they must not and have no right to base their statements on any election considerations. This is a case of particularly serious issues.

There is nothing tough in Boris Nikolayevich's statements. It is only a declaration that Russia has a great interest in Crimea. Such an interest is unequivocal and this is acknowledged by senior and top Ukrainian politicians. It would have been wrong to not declare Russia's interest in Crimea, while Russia has its fleet there. Not to mention the fact that the greatest portion of Crimean residents speak Russian and feel, as before, closely connected to Russia.

I, however, think that Crimea is not the major issue. The problem lies in the attitude of Ukrainian authorities toward Russia. This attitude seriously differs from the attitude of Russian authorities toward Ukraine. With regard to both our peoples, they were and remain closely connected to each other. Authorities, however, began to experience difficulties in their relations. Until recently, Russia tried — to a maximum degree — to meet Ukraine's demands, while Ukraine's authorities did not make a single compromise. The intention of Ukraine's authorities to build statehood on rejecting specific relations with Russia — that existed for decades and centuries — is obvious. In general, Russia and Ukraine were one entity for hundreds of years. There is, however, such a desire to reject specific relations and specific history now, to pretend that the countries have simply parted, have divorced on the basis of international law. Are there no true, practical problems?! For example, on the basis of what international law was the 1954 Act [not further specified] discussed? Russia, however, built its relations with Ukraine and has not raised this issue since 1991. Well, international law is international law. We acknowledge this and do not want to create difficulties. There is, however, reality! There is the fleet and there are Russian people. For example, we do not create difficulties with making payments for energy resources and other commodities, even though we could have done so on the basis of international law. We, however, met Ukraine halfway, proceeding from a special attitude toward Ukraine and its people. We do this to Russia's detriment, because unsettled debts affect finances. The other side, however, does not demonstrate a similar approach. The negotiations are conducted in such a way as if we owe something, as if Russia is a debtor and Ukraine — a creditor. All this is sad, and I hope that such sentiments will change in due course.

Russia has done everything possible so that no one can lay claims against it for being uncompromising and for exerting pressure. We do not exert any pressure! Simple historic facts show that Crimea belonged to Russia; historic facts demonstrate that Sevastopol was — however, it is not now — a Russian city; historic facts prove that the Black Sea Fleet was the Soviet Union's fleet, which was primarily formed thanks to the Russian Federation. So, if we meet Ukraine halfway in all areas, why can Ukraine not make such a kind, fraternal Slavic compromise and stop referring to national legislation (because we also have our own national legislation, which could be used to resolve the Black Sea Fleet problems, such as its bases and infrastructure), and stop making constant references to international law? It is necessary to perceive this international law in creative terms. Yes, if we discuss Russian- Ukrainian problems from the viewpoint of international law, unexpected results could emerge.

[Medvedev] What, in your opinion, must the Ukrainian leadership undertake, what specific, kind, fraternal Slavic compromise must it make so that Russia has every reason to believe that the Ukrainian side's commitment to making compromises is equal to Russia's commitment to do so? Must this compromise refer only to the Black Sea, or do you imply other issues as well?

[Ryurikov] Documents regarding the Black Sea Fleet, which have been drafted by the Russian side, must be positively assessed and signed. The approval of these documents by the Ukrainian side will represent Ukraine's contribution to resolving bilateral problems. The above-mentioned national legislation could prompt a relevant way out. If there is goodwill, a way out could be found, however, regrettably, the Ukrainian side has not expressed such goodwill to date. It seems to me that Russia did, does, and will do much for Ukraine to expect similar compromises.

There are practically no other serious problems in our relations, aside from the Black Sea Fleet issue. There is also an issue on citizenship, we, however, hope that it will be resolved.

[Medvedev] By the way, what is Russia's attitude toward an idea to attract middlemen to resolve Black Sea Fleet problems?

[Ryurikov] To invite a middlemen is a sign of weakness and of the inability to dispute one's positions.

[Medvedev] So, it turns out that in exchange for its economic compromises, Russia would like to obtain Ukraine's political compromises.

[Ryurikov] Russia has also made quite a few political compromises. We do not mention them simply due to our nobleness.

[Medvedev] Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin connects the signing of a big political agreement with Ukraine with progress in relations between Kiev and Simferopol. What are the criteria used by Russia to define whether such a regulation of relations has been achieved? Cries of uncompromising people — who are not pleased with the mere fact of the peninsula being part of Ukraine — will always be heard from Crimea.

[Ryurikov] What is implied by relations between Kiev and Simferopol? These are relations between authorities. There could always be problems in relations between authorities. The cancellation of the presidency (it is not our business, whether it is a good or a bad president) and the abolishment of the Constitution are signs of some deregulation. The primary thing in our interest is that Crimean residents live well, that they have an opportunity to fully realize their national, cultural, economic, and political rights. It would be wonderful if all Crimean residents have such an opportunity, if all legitimate bodies of power function normally and smoothly.

I assure you: Russia is never going to listen to any groups and groupings that have a right to proclaim everything they want. This is not our business. There are authorities, they represent the people's will and they must be part of such relations with the center — with Kiev — that would make it possible for the entire population of the peninsula to go about their business normally.

[Medvedev] There is a Crimean Government that believes that there are no problems in relations between Simferopol and Kiev; there is the Crimean Supreme Soviet that holds a different viewpoint; finally, there is a considerable portion of deputies, who propose that this Supreme Soviet be dismissed by Kiev. In which way is it possible to specify, given such a variety of opinions, the following: What kind of problems are there in relations between Crimea and Kiev? Which Crimean authorities have these problems?

[Ryurikov] The Constitution is especially important when there is such a variety of opinions. Everyone must feel its regulating impact.

[Medvedev] Various assessments of the Russian-Ukrainian agreement on debt restructuring have been voiced in Russia. A few lawmakers offered severe criticism — sometimes it was expressed in bad language — leveled against First Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, who signed the agreement. How does Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin assess this agreement?

[Ryurikov] This agreement was the first one to consider debts within a specific legal framework. Regrettably, the agreement itself is insufficient to make all the necessary payments.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, truth be told, hoped that this agreement will make it possible to demonstrate — to a full degree — Russia's goodwill. When he realized the position of the Ukrainian delegation regarding the Black Sea Fleet, however, he said that regrettably his expectations did not materialize.

[Medvedev] Do your words imply that the Russian side could change its attitude toward this agreement, since Ukraine — proceeding from your words and those of your president — has not appreciated this compromise by Russia?

[Ryurikov] Yes, the implication is as such. Just as it is. There is such an opinion. There is such an opportunity.

[Medvedev] The issue of dual citizenship was not included in the framework of the political agreement, but the problem remains. Why is it precisely Ukraine's approval of dual citizenship which Russia strives to achieve so energetically? Meanwhile, other mechanisms for resolving this issue were adopted in relations with Belarus and Kazakhstan.

[Ryurikov] Citizenship is the second sore issue in our relations. Anyway, we hope that negotiations on this subject will be more constructive and will soon be completed.

With regard to approaches, you see, the leadership of Belarus and Kazakhstan show somewhat different attitudes toward providing the people — who regard themselves as Russian citizens — with relevant rights. The matter is in concrete specific peculiarities of relations between Russia and each of these countries. The problem of citizenship is raised if there is a need for it and if there is no need — it is not raised. The point is in the entire package of rights, offered by citizenship, in the degree of closeness, and in specific relations. Meanwhile, I can say that relations between Russian authorities and those of Belarus and Kazakhstan go ahead of relations between Russian and Ukrainian authorities.

[Medvedev] Regarding all that you have said, could you outline an eventual date for Yeltsin's expected visit to Ukraine? Is it possible to say that such a trip is absolutely impossible before 9 May?

[Ryurikov] I would not say that the visit is absolutely ruled out. To rule things out outright is impossible. I think, however, that this is hardly possible. Proceeding from the fact that the date has been repeatedly discussed, I would refrain from making any predictions.

[Medvedev] Perhaps, one would do better to not discuss a date for such a visit.

[Ryurikov] I believe that would make sense.

[Medvedev] Do not you think that one of major issues in relations between our countries is the issue of confidence, primarily Ukraine's confidence in Russia? Ukraine has a specific historic experience when rapprochement with Russia proved to be something other than it had been declared.

[Ryurikov] They say: Let bygones be bygones! A negative past is implied here. By all its activities and behavior, Russia says to Ukraine: "Dear Brother and Neighbor! Build your statehood. We support you." There is no — and there can be no — intention to encroach on sovereignty, statehood, and independence. There is, however, a desire that Russian interests, Russian dignity, as well as historic past, which is also of importance today, be taken into consideration.

There is no problem with sovereignty. Ukraine wished to take U.S. advice before adopting legal norms on Crimea, and it did so. It, however, has not sought Russia's advice. It is Ukraine's sovereign business.

Columnist Claims Yeltsin Will Not Sign Treaty

WS0805111895 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 28 Apr-3 May 95 p 2

[Commentary by Maryana Chorna: "The Russian-Ukrainian Treaty Will Not Be Signed Any Time Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **After another round of Russian-Ukrainian negotiations it became absolutely clear: Yeltsin has no intention whatsoever to go to Kiev and sign anything. Neither before 9 May nor after.**

As often happens among politicians and in politics, words are completely different from thoughts. The favorite issue of [Russian Communist Party Leader] Zyuganov, [Liberal Democratic Party Chairman] Zhirinovskiy, and [reporter] Nevzorov — that of protecting Russophones — has become so fashionable in Russia that even [Foreign Minister] Kozyrev has taken an "a la Russe" stance and surprised the world with the idea of protecting compatriots by all possible means, including by force of arms. Yeltsin, sitting in the Kremlin, again felt concern over maritime problems and realized that he cannot live without the [Black Sea] Fleet. Having assured that a treaty with Ukraine is badly needed and "awaited by the peoples of the two states," Duma speaker Rybkin still believes that the Fleet is more important to his people than a treaty with the neighbor.

The Ukrainian high-level mouths expressed the sweetest of assurances of full readiness to immediately sign a full-scale treaty with Russia. If one were to believe Acting Prime Minister Marchuk, this might happen as early as tomorrow. The Ukrainian leadership has tried to persuade everyone that it is ready to love the big sister and would only like to specify certain concrete issues regarding the stationing of a foreign military formation on Ukrainian soil.

What has not been mentioned in the verbal battles? Unmentioned was the actual situation of Crimea. Just as we have forecasted, Russia's ultimate hope — the small ship called the Crimean Supreme Soviet — has cracked up and is gradually sinking. Meanwhile the people of Crimea, instead of unanimously begging mother Russia, are keeping silent and weeding their flower-beds. At the same time, Crimea's provisional deputy commission is continuing to work hard. Its chairman, having learned from the bitter experience of the Blasko concern, did not believe in Supreme Soviet Chairman Tsekov's disinterested intentions and has been trying to reveal the genesis of the Crimean complications. As a result, according to Yuriy Karmazin, it has turned out that Mr. Tsekov had held tete-a-tete meetings with Rybkin and Kozyrev in Sochi long before the Russians started manifesting tender sentiments toward Russophones and the Fleet.

In addition, a couple of other petty, however annoying adversities still remain. Ukraine's gas debts, meticulously amassed by both the Russian and the Ukrainian gas departments, seemed to be a sufficient reason for the Russian friends to initiate the long-cherished operation — that of taking over gas reservoirs and gas networks on Ukrainian territory and transforming them into their property. It turned out however, that Mr. Kuchma's team is implementing reform in an unsatisfactorily expedient manner, and the facilities exempt from privatization by the law include the aforementioned property. Besides, the president's wonderful edict on financial-industrial groups is still being kept in parliamentary cabinets; nobody is willing to discuss the law on the financial-industrial groups and thus grant hot Russian rubles access into the veins of Ukrainian enterprises.

The Ukrainians have displayed extreme stupidity in the issues of reform, and our native postsocialist economy is still not ready to answer the Russian market's fraternal embrace and dissolve quietly and calmly in a network of transnational structures. Moreover, a certain number of Ukraine's industrial clans seem to believe that they themselves are able to take good care of profitable native facilities. As for the Kuchma team, the discussions of the bill on power continues and it is hard to say when they will be completed. Once they have been completed though, the law will hardly give the executive branch the right to realize its electoral slogan: "More bridges, fewer borders" and immediately remove all the barriers blocking Russia's democratic capital from property located on Ukraine's soil. This might happen, but when?

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian president does not have any tangible offers for Moscow and it is more and more difficult to find resolutions. It is even easy to lose the presidential seat, because after nine months of presidency it has become clear that Ukraine is a very stubborn state with an unpredictable character, a malicious legislature, and a bunch of unruly managers who have their own opinions about everything. In addition, there are entire social strata demanding the impossible, crowds of hungry pensioners, and many other unpleasant things. The presidential seat alone does not guarantee anything. It is not hard to be elected president; it is hard to be one.

What options are there under the circumstances? Attend the victory parade in Moscow and quietly hang around in the shadow of hefty Boris Nikolayevich? This would be a rewarding sight for those who fail to understand the importance of the protection of Russia's interests "from Moscow to the very provinces." Taking advantage of the holiday, Moscow will probably not forget to discipline "Kravchuk's former deputy" [Kuchma] who has difficulty resolving his problems. As the saying goes, however, shame cannot burn out one's eyes. At least the eyes of Ukrainian politicians, because no "Duma debates" can prevent [First Deputy Prime Minister] Dyomin from hugging Mr. Rybkin. Neither can Gazprom's appetite prevent Mr. Marchuk from seeking unity with Mr. Chernomyrdin; nor the valiant Russian Army's "heroic deeds" in peacetime, accomplished under [Defense Minister] Grachev's command — even if Kiev were to become the next target — can cast a shadow on Leonid Kuchma's tender sentiments toward Boris Yeltsin. Nothing can be done, because this is the way of our authorities: "You have rocks in your head; can you survive alone? You're a Russian-Polish whore, a Small Russia prison."

Kuchma Denounces Europe's 'Separatism Disease'

LD0805150195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, May 8 (Interfax) - Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma denounced the "separatism disease of some European nations" at his meeting with President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Miguel Martinez on May 7.

He negatively estimated the "striving to revise the map of Europe" and explained that he primarily meant the developments on territory of the former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia.

In his turn, Martinez praised the activities of the Ukrainian peace-making battalion on territory of former Yugoslavia. He said that the presence of Ukrainian peace-makers in the region prevented "thousands of victims."

Kuchma reaffirmed the Ukrainian striving to join the Council of Europe in the near future. Ukraine wants to become a European state not only in the geographic respect, stressed the President. "We will do everything necessary to ensure normal cooperation with the Council of Europe," said Kuchma.

The officials discussed celebrations of the 50th V-day and problems related to the halt of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

In the words of Martinez, Ukrainian decision on possible halt of the plant provoked "satisfaction" of European states.

Envoy to Poland Views Relations, Conflicts

WS0905083095 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Andriy Bolkun report on interview with Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Petro Sardachuk by unidentified reporters; place and date not given: "Polish Experience Is Less Expensive, Because Lublin Is Closer Than Ottawa"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The time for making declarations on Ukrainian-Polish relations has passed. There is important everyday work ahead of our nations: Overcoming stereotypes and building good-neighborly relations. A certain degree of unrest is, however, again noticeable along the Ukrainian-Polish border. A war of monuments and offensive declarations is being conducted. The familiarization visits paid by Ukrainian Ambassador to Poland Petro Sardachuk to Przemysl and Lublin are supposed to be helpful in clarifying the complicated situation. He met there with the leaders of the cities and representatives of the Ukrainian communities in the first half of April. One of those meetings was attended by our correspondent, who recorded the ambassador's speech.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, a lot of observers maintain that the relationship between our countries has been developing quite unsatisfactorily over the past year....

[Sardachuk] I categorically do not agree with this opinion. The euphoric period of the first years of independence is obviously gone. The Poles were happy with our independence. We were even more happy and did not know what to do with our independence. At that time, we were sort of supporting each other; there were good contacts between Solidarity and the Rukh. Currently, we have faced the realities of our neighbor's everyday life. The Polish Government, the president, and the nation care first and foremost for themselves and their country. It is unrealistic to expect that also today the Poles will advocate a sovereign and independent Ukraine all the time. We have created a minimum number of interstate documents which determine and regulate interstate relations. We notice constant support from the Polish side in the international arena. Poland's leaders are constantly repeating that for the Polish Republic a good relationship with Ukraine is a priority. We understand their desire to join NATO. We hope at the same time that Poland will also understand us, given that the Polish wish does not quite correspond to Ukraine's interests. Therefore, we have found ourselves caught between the devil and the sea. Ukraine does not protest Poland's proposed membership in NATO. We are, however, asking Europe to provide Ukraine with security guarantees. We advocate a general European system of security assurances, which will be the same for all states. A redivision of European territories may, however, lead to a definite end of Europe, as well as entire world.

[Reporter] A certain tension is noticeable in Ukrainian-Polish relations at the regional level, especially in Przemysl Voivodship. Can you provide us with some comments on this issue?

[Sardachuk] This is true, relations between the Ukrainian minority and the Polish majority in Przemysl Voivodship are exacerbated. This is really worrying us. Separate disagreements do not, however, amount to the exacerbation of interstate relations. God forbid that we allow a local incident to develop into an interstate one. There are forces in Poland which are stirring up discord. They are against monuments and everything of a Ukrainian nature. There are anti-Polish forces in Ukraine, too, however they are less active.

Monuments and cemeteries are a very sensitive problem. We have signed a treaty with Poland on the protection of sites commemorating the victims of wars and political persecution. We should always keep this in our minds — we have to obey the law if we want to avoid conflicts. A nasty accident occurred in Hruszowice. A monument commemorating the soldiers of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army [UPA] was erected by people who think about the past with heartache. It is an indisputable fact, however, that this was done without the permission of local authorities. The other problem is that the Polish authorities somewhat resist the erection of Ukrainian monuments. However, just imagine for a while such a scenario: A group of people are "airdropped" in Ukraine and erect a monument commemorating the Armia Krajowa [Polish underground army involved in fighting with the UPA] on the territory of Lvov or Volyn Oblasts. What would our reaction be? If the monument in Hruszowice had been erected with the authorities' permission then our current approach to this problem would have been much tougher. We will always act in accordance with the law under all kinds of circumstances. One illegal step leads to another. We erect monuments commemorating the UPA, they — monuments commemorating the victims of Ukrainian nationalism in front of our cathedral. We will launch a "war" for monuments at the beginning. Who is gaining from those activities?

There are certain forces tending to evoke unrest in Ukraine. They persistently repeat that Ukraine needs "a small but preferably military incident." [passage within quotation marks published in Russian] There are no grounds to begin a baseless confrontation here in Poland. The Polish experience is very important to us. Therefore, we advocate close cooperation with Poland. We have nothing to look for in Canada or Austria. We should be going to Poland, which has already been through the problems similar to ours. We should observe and learn. The Ukrainians are going to the Netherlands to learn how to grow tulips, whereas they have no bread. There is a similar situation with the introduction of Canadian farming methods. The farms there have 400 hectares of land. Meanwhile in Ukraine, a farmer is given a fork but there is no place to buy a spade. They should come here to Lublin Voivodship and see what one can do on 5 hectares of land without a lot of equipment and with only one horse. [end Sardachuk]

After the meeting of the Ukrainian ambassador to Poland with the Ukrainian community in Lublin, a

MOLODA HALYCHYNA correspondent asked Petro Sardachuk to review his first 100 days as Ukrainian Ambassador to Warsaw.

[Sardachuk] The first 100-day period is for presidents. This is diplomatic service — an extremely heavy burden and painstaking work on a daily basis. We meet with people every day; we discuss matters which can bring about economic and political benefits to our state. There is a lot of work to do. Therefore, the 100 days have passed like one day. We work 12 to 13 hours a day and it is still not enough.

National Affairs

Kuchma News Conference in Kharkov

LD0805182295 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 8 May 95

[Correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko report on President Leonid Kuchma news conference in Kharkov on 6 May —passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Naumenko] The news conference by the president of Ukraine was attended by 112 correspondents from Kiev, Kharkov, and Dnepropetrovsk. Even in Kiev, the president's news conferences rarely attract as many correspondents as this one in Kharkov did. Foreign correspondents accredited in Ukraine also attended the news conference. It is worthwhile mentioning that the event was taking place in unusual surroundings — under the ground, at one of the Kharkov subway stations which have just been commissioned. As is known, a total of five stations of the first stage of the Oleksiyivska subway line have been put into operation.

Having communicated with Kharkov residents at a festive rally on the occasion of the opening of several subway stations and heard their impressions — and people were rather positive about Leonid Kuchma's activities as the president of Ukraine — the president was in a very good mood and willingly answered correspondents' questions.

The first question, as one might expect, was, as a matter of fact, not a question, but a request for a comment on what the president of Ukraine saw in Kharkov — one of Ukraine's largest industrial centers. Is the president going to introduce some preferential regime in order to support the huge potential accumulated today for objective reasons in this Ukrainian city? Leonid Kuchma was also asked whether he, as the president of Ukraine, has a talisman and whether or not it has helped him.

[Kuchma] "[Word indistinct] high opinion, because there are virtually no cities like Kharkov in Ukraine, I am absolutely sure of this. This is the city of science, culture, education, the military-industrial complex, machine-building, and many other spheres. As far as Kharkov's future is concerned, we have no right whatsoever to lose what we now have both in Kharkov and in other regions of our state, because if we lose this potential, our path of development will be similar to that of Africa. I apologize to the African correspondents, if there are any here, that they not take offense.

"Therefore, our common task is to preserve what has been achieved. This is the main objective of my visit here and this is why I arrived here, not just to take part in the opening of the subway line, as you understand. And our meeting today was devoted to this, and these problems were discussed in detail. And the main thing I was urging today was: Do not tell how badly we live today — I am very well aware of this — but tell what together we have to do in order to improve our life tomorrow, what issues are within the jurisdiction of the president or the executive power, and what issues are within the jurisdiction of the legislative power, because there are many deputies here, chairmen of commissions, and a deputy chairman of the Supreme Council. Many proposals have been made toward that end. We shall have a thorough conversation with the chairman of the regional council and with the city's mayor to approve this program. Among other issues, we are considering the issue of providing this region with more opportunities and rights to make some decisions. Therefore, I am convinced that we shall change the situation for the better. Thank you.

"With regard to the second question, I have one main talisman: I believe in what I do and this is what I said at the meeting. I sincerely believe in the future of Ukraine and that is what I am here for. I also want to tell you, as you have realized from the program of my trips, they are mutually connected. I will not talk about our strategic partner, Russia, and so on, because this is a separate issue. There was my trip to Canada, the United States, Japan, and Italy. My next visit will be to Germany. These are G-7 countries on which much depends, including our future, because these are countries that, pardon the expression, have money. If these countries are attracted to our economy, then they wave the flag for private capital to be attracted to Ukraine. So the main talisman for me is that we are believed, that there is trust in the policies that we are conducting today. It is always better to help those who work. We are demonstrating that we have a clear program and are working. The world believes in us today. Thank you."

[Naumenko] During the news conference, an interesting fact emerged. One of my colleagues, as it turned out, took part in an event — a news conference held by Leonid Kuchma but which took place last year in the United States during the Ukrainian president's state visit. The colleague remembered one of Kuchma's expressions at that news conference: in order to become a real president, I will always need to be a persistent student. The head of the Ukrainian state was asked how his studies are progressing. Leonid Kuchma was also asked to reply to a somewhat funny question: Does he have the qualities of a wizard in order to resolve Ukraine's energy problems?

[Kuchma] "I think you realize that I am studying normally, and I said clearly today that I am certain of my actions. I would like more people in Ukraine today to be certain in this and work together with the president. I ask you, the mass media, to help me in this.

"With regard to the second question, the energy problem for Ukraine is really the main problem. You are aware that in the 1970's, during the world energy crisis when fuel prices increased by 100-200 percent, there were bankruptcies and similar occurrences connected with this in the world. You know that during that time, we experienced a 30-40,000-fold increase in the price of fuel. It is fortunate that everything did not fall to pieces. There is no problem in the supply of oil or gas, but only in paying for it. Russia — in fact, it is not Russia, but the (?Russian joint-stock company) — will never give us gas for nothing. The debt that we have not repayed has increased during this time. You know this only too well. We are not preparing to cut gas supplies for the population in the towns. I want to repeat clearly that on no account will we do this. We will not supply gas to those enterprises that are not paying for it. Today, we have begun to implement a tough policy as regards enterprises that are not paying for the gas.

"The third problem is the problem of supplying gas to small settlements, particularly villages. Over the last three years, we have practically doubled gas supplies to the villages. We must think about how we are going to spend the winter and start thinking about wood, coal, and so on. Nowhere in the world is there such a barbaric attitude to gas as in our country. I often say that Norway, which is the world's third largest oil producer, does not use a single gram of gas for heating apartments.

"Gas is a strategic raw material and it should be used for the chemical and petrochemical industry, and so on. We should draw up an energy conservation program. Power engineering is the most important problem for our state. Such a program is now being practically elaborated. The credits we will receive from the IMF, the World Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development should only be used for this purpose. We should not use it to buy something we do not need. We need new technologies and equipment so that our goods can become competitive both in our country and primarily in the CIS.

"If we consume two or three times more energy than people elsewhere in the world, this is a road to nowhere. We must renounce this. We must all together, the leadership of the executive power both in Kiev and in the localities and at the legislative level, first and foremost the Supreme Council, stop shouting about poverty and about opening the gas taps and switching on the heating without thinking about the consequences; otherwise, tomorrow we will end up who knows where. We will pay with our future, but I do not want future generations to say that the president completely sold Ukraine by not building an independent economy. So let us work together toward this aim, as this is the only true way. Thank you."

[Naumenko] As is known, on 11-12 May, U.S. President Bill Clinton will pay a visit to Ukraine. The visit has long been the focus of heightened attention. Naturally, many rumors and various data are being spread in connection with the upcoming visit by the U.S. President. In particular, one of the questions to Leonid Kuchma was as follows: Is it true that a Ukrainian-U.S. interstate agreement on the agro-industrial complex will be signed during Bill Clinton's visit? Leonid Kuchma was also asked to analyze the current Ukrainian-Russian relations and prospects for signing a comprehensive political agreement between the two states:

[Kuchma] "Whether this is true or not, you may later ask esteemed President Clinton himself. You know that on 9 May, I am going to Moscow, this is true. I think that this is a correct move from any point of view. In Italy, they put the same question to me. I said unambiguously that we would, without fail, drink a toast with Russia's president to our joint victory. If we have enough time for a more fruitful conversation, then, you understand that we are aware of the problems in Ukrainian-Russian relations. I am not going to insist, but I would really like us to finish the talks on that treaty as soon as possible, because, in my opinion, there are no technical problems to its being signing, there are only political problems. And it only depends on the heads of state whether or not we shall resolve the issue or continue dragging out this process, as they say. In my opinion, both Ukraine and Russia need this treaty.

"Actually, only one problem remains to be solved concerning the Black Sea Fleet. I have been saying repeatedly that Ukraine is ready to meet Russia half-way and take relevant decisions, but there are bounds beyond which even the president cannot go. I, for sure, as they say... [changes thought] Probably, the president of Russia is not well enough informed about the proposals put forth by our side. I think that this decision is a way out, and we shall, without fail, sign the treaty.

"As far as Clinton's visit is concerned, well, Ukraine is interested — you are well aware of this, and this is true — in the world community's aid, primarily financial aid, because at present, investments in Ukraine are actually the lowest, as compared to other republics of the former Soviet Union. Investments in Ukraine amount to only 6.5 percent of what has been invested in Russia's economy and 20 percent of what has been invested in the economy of Uzbekistan. Please, tell me: Is this good or bad? In my opinion, this is bad. So, the president of Ukraine will raise issues of solving these problems too. I am convinced that the United States has many more possibilities today to help. You see, when Mexico ran into a problem, money was found immediately. I would also like not only the United States, but the G-7 as a whole and Europe, first and foremost, to think about Europe's future. Meanwhile, to secure Europe's future, it is necessary for us to be economically stronger than we are today. If we continue sliding down, we shall run into all kinds of conflicts, both social and non-social ones.

"Really, there are problems in agriculture. We wasted time this year. If we had adopted the budget in time, agriculture would have been supported and the Supreme Council need not have discussed how much additional money had to be printed in order to support the countryside. The printing of money will not support the countryside or even the economy. We need to have noninflationary funds. This is the only way to resolve all our problems.

"I will gladly reply to all your questions. The visit will be positive and will influence the resolution of all the problems that Ukraine has. Thank you."

[Naumenko] The next question from one of my colleagues concerned the law on power. This draft law has been sitting in parliament since 25 December 1994, and the issue has still not been resolved. The main essence of the law has been removed and this threatens the destabilization not only of the political but also of the economic situation in Ukraine. What are the president's next steps in this area? Here is President Leonid Kuchma's reply:

[Kuchma] "In Italy, I had a meeting with left-wing parties and their leaders who used to be members of the Communist Party. It was interesting for me to talk to them because I wanted to hear about the transformations of these political forces in these countries from their own mouths. We are only too well aware that there used to be a very influential Communist Party. I held meetings without journalists present, but there were no secrets. The general secretary told me clearly that first and foremost, they had renounced those dogmas which they used to espouse along with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union [CPSU]. You also know that there used to be financial support from the USSR or the CPSU Central Committee for those political movements.

"But the main thing that they have renounced today is the class struggle, which is what our left-wing forces are calling for. But against whom do they want to wage a class war? As I see it, they want to wage class war against the president, who is their main enemy at the moment. Whenever they meet, they call for Leonid Kuchma's resignation, saying that the day after tomorrow, things will improve.

"Why am I saying this? I have always conducted a dialogue with all the factions in the Supreme Council. At the request of all the factions, I recently held a meeting with them. All 10 factions were present, and we discussed this law on power and local self-government. To tell the truth, we should not have written about the law on power, but about the division of powers between the branches of power.

"We had a good and fruitful conversation, including with the Socialist and Communist factions. But after lunch, the Supreme Council session continued its meeting, during which a decision was adopted to once again consider this law in its second reading a second time — that is how I would say it [Kuchma chuckles], and to postpone the discussion until 16 May because of the long holiday. We can see only too well that this law has been practically blocked.

"I was personally surprised by the discussion on the issues concerning the president. As soon as the left-wing factions came across the word president, they would press the button and vote against the clause. At every Supreme Council meeting, they would say that the Constitution was the main thing for them. If the Constitution states that the president is the head of state and the executive power, why are they against him?

"Please tell me, are there possibilities for cooperation or not? At present, I will say that there is practically no possibility for cooperation, but I do not want to reject the last opportunity, because before the holidays, members of the centrist factions asked me to meet them halfway, and I have not rejected what they have proposed. They proposed a constitutional agreement between the president and that part of the Supreme Council that wants to cooperate. If this is not achieved, then you know my opinion — I will resort to a plebiscite. The president is not allowed to conduct a referendum, and the Supreme Council will not adopt a decision on a referendum. It would be disastrous for us all to drag this out until the winter.

"I would say that it is very bad to hold a plebiscite because there will be no overwhelming victory. Overall, we will all lose. In my opinion, there is no overall power today. Whatever anyone tells me, history proves that every state can emerge from a crisis only on one condition: that there is a strong executive power. But if we have already completely destroyed it as well as the agreement between individual political forces and political leaders, then please tell me whether we can continue living like this? I say that we cannot. There will be two issues: do you have confidence in the president: yes or no; and do you have confidence in the Supreme Council: yes or no. This is to avoid accusations that the president had an advantage. So these are the two ways. To find understanding, and judging by today's meetings in Kharkov and at the larger and smaller rallies, people want accord and peace. Only in these conditions do we have the possibilities to improve the economy. They tell us abroad that they will come to Ukraine without fail if there is political and legislative stability, and so on."

[Announcer] This was an excerpt from an hour-long press conference that President Leonid Kuchma held in Kharkov. It was prepared by Vitaliy Naumenko.

Kuchma Addresses VE-Day Ceremony in Kiev

LD0905100995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A ceremonial meeting dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe took place in Kiev. Present at the meeting were World War II veterans, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, Speaker of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz, representatives of the presidential administration, ministers of the Ukrainian Government, other high Ukrainian officials, representatives of the armed forces of Ukraine, public organizations, and an honorary guest, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Miguel-Angel Martinez.

Speaking at the meeting was President Leonid Kuchma.

Dear participants of the meeting, dear countrymen, dear veterans, dear guests, said the president. Like a night being the start of [word indistinct] the spring night of May 1945 brought the morning of victory on that glorious day, the day of the end of World War II in Europe. We have survived and won. The 50th anniversary of the great victory is the last event of the 20th century which has global significance. More than 80 percent of the population of the earth were involved in World War II. Sixty million died in it, 30 million of which were civilians. This horrible statistic demands that such a war must never happen again. Ukraine has suffered severely in that war. Suffice it to say that each seventh of the 60 million was a Ukrainian citizen, said the president.

The president also analyzed some strategic mistakes of the Stalin regime during Word War II which resulted in additional human loses. Among them Leonid Kuchma mentioned repressions against military leaders which began in the 1930s and continued even in 1941 and 1942, Stalin's personal strategic mistakes, some prewar mistakes in the sphere of the economy, and some others. Ukraine's recovery after World War II is the brightest testimony of the fact that all our losses and suffering in that war were not in vain, continued the president.

Speaking about the present situation in the CIS countries, Leonid Kuchma said it was rather difficult but Ukraine does know that it will be resolved [words indistinct] bloodshed. The former Soviet Union's republics had enough of that.

Having joined the START-1 [treaty], continued Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine has confirmed that it can be a reliable partner of the Western countries. At the same time, said the president, the rest of the world has to remember that Ukraine is strongly against any revision of borders in the post-war Europe. But our military doctrine has a defensive character underlined, Leonid Kuchma. In any scales a victory does not need any estimates, victory is victory. We have to leave it in the memory of our offspring forever as the greatest victory of the 20th century.

Army, Black Sea Fleet March Under Separate Flags

LD0905110495 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A parade of Ukraine's armed forces and Black Sea Fleet took place in Simferopol today. Ukrainian military units carried the yellow and blue state flags of Ukraine and their own banners. The units of the Black Sea Fleet marched under the flag of the former USSR navy. The parade was followed by a festive procession of veterans and a demonstration of Simferopol residents. Among those taking part in the demonstration were Yuriy Meshkov, dismissed by the Ukrainian authorities from the post of Crimea's president, Leonid Hrach, the first secretary of the republic's Communist Party committee, and Russian Duma Deputy Sergey Baburin.

Marchuk: Crimea Issues Will Be Solved

LD0805132995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] I can guarantee that all the Crimea-related issues will be resolved in a democratic manner and in compliance with the international legal norms, if no third party meddles in this process, Acting Prime Minister of Ukraine Yevheniy Marchuk said during his meeting with Miguel-Angel Martinez, the president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe. As is known, the Crimean issue is one of the issues that the Council of Europe member-states remark on when considering the question of Ukraine's accession to that organization. Therefore, the aspects of the situation that has taken shape around the Autonomous Republic of Crimea were touched upon at the meeting.

Crimea is a complicated crossroads of political, military, economic, and social problems, Marchuk emphasized, but our state is trying to build its policies on the principles of a balanced approach and predictability, to solve the problem by peaceful, civilized, political means.

The president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe was informed that a Ukrainian roundtable would be held in Switzerland on 11-14 May under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Crimean issue will be on the roundtable's agenda.

President Kuchma's Decree on State Treasury

WS0905095795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2323 GMT 8 May 95

[Decree No. 335/95 by President Leonid Kuchma "On the State Treasury of Ukraine" issued in Kiev on 27 April]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Decree of the President of Ukraine on the State Treasury of Ukraine

In order to provide efficient management of Ukraine's State Budget and raise promptness in financing budget expenditures I decree:

1. To form the State Treasury of Ukraine under the Finance Ministry of Ukraine.

To establish that the State Treasury system consist of the State Treasury Head Board and its territorial bodies: the State Treasury Boards in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the oblasts, the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol with branches in the districts, cities and city districts.

The State Treasury will be financed by Ukraine's state budget.

The State Treasury will settle accounts in banking establishments with a seal of the State Emblem of Ukraine and the institution's name.

2. The main tasks of the state treasury are:

to organize executing the state budget and conducting its control;

to manage available state budget funds including those in foreign currency and the state non-budget funds within expenditures set aside for the appropriate period;

to finance the state budget expenditures;

to register cash execution of the state budget, to compile reports on the state of the state budget execution;

to carry out management of the state internal and foreign debts according to the active legislation;

to distribute between the state budget and the budgets of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the oblasts, the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol the deductions from the whole-state taxes, charges and the obligatory payments according to the norms passed by the Ukrainian parliament;

to conduct control over state non-budget funds receipts use;

to develop the normative-methodical documents on the issues of accounting, reporting and organizing execution of budgets of all levels that are obligatory to all the enterprises, institutions and establishments using budget funds and the non-budget state funds;

3. For the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

to pass, within the month's term, the Provisions on the State Treasury of Ukraine;

to determine the amount of allocations for the state treasury allowance within the expenditures envisaged in the state budget of Ukraine for the state executive bodies allowance for 1995;

to resolve, within three months the organizational issues regarding the provision of conditions for the state treasury activity, including allocation of the premises for the head board personnel allocation;

to form, within a month, incentives to attract leading scientists and specialists to form an interdepartmental working group to develop a mechanism of state treasury system functioning, its computerization and to prepare proposals on submitting appropriate amendments to Ukrainian legislation. Included are tests of the mechanism in Kiev, Chernihiv oblasts and on the base of the Public Health Ministry, the Chernobyl Ministry;

the Kiev and Chernihiv oblast executive committees, the Public Health Ministry and the Chernobyl Ministry should take appropriate organizational and financial measures to test the mechanism of the State Treasury system functioning.

4. The government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the executive committees of the local Radas should provide the State Treasury territorial bodies with offices and create proper conditions for their functioning.

The President of Ukraine L. Kuchma
Kiev April 27, 1995 No. 335/95

Decree on Strengthening Financial Discipline

WS0905103395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
2323 GMT 8 May 95

[Decree No. 343/95 by President Leonid Kuchma "On the Measures for Strengthening the Financial Discipline While Executing the State Budget of Ukraine" issued in Kiev on 1 May]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Decree of the President of Ukraine on the Measures for Strengthening the Financial Discipline While Executing the State Budget of Ukraine

In order to provide financial stabilization and to strengthen the finance discipline while executing the State Budget of Ukraine, I decree:

1. To lay down that draft bills, realization of which requires additional expenditures from the State Budget or State Budget income base reduction, including taxes, customs duties and other obligatory payments exemptions, will be submitted to the Ukrainian parliament on the basis of decisions by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine by the president of Ukraine exclusively.

2. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, after regular adoption of the Act on the State Budget, will not examine any appeals of ministries, departments, other state executive power bodies, radas of all levels, their executive committees, separate officials or people's deputies regarding increases in expenditures or decreases in income to the State Budget, apart from the appeals connected with unexpected or uncontrollable emergency situations.

The appeals which contain precise justifications in writing regarding the sources of additional expenditures or financing can only be examined when simultaneously submitted with proposals to the parliament on making the State Budget indices more precise.

3. For the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine:

to review, within a two-week period, the previously passed decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers on allowing exemptions regarding tax payment and other obligatory payments to the State Budget;

to provide guarantees for attracting new foreign credits to Ukraine only in accordance with a decision by the Cabinet of Ministers upon presentation by the Currency-Credit Council with the previous approval of the Finance Ministry and the Economics Ministry.

To draw up, within a period of one month, a complete inventory of all the previously granted state guarantees, including all those granted since 1992. To examine, in May 1995, the conclusions on the efficiency of using the credits obtained under the governmental guarantees in each distinct case and to determine a mechanism of debt settlement and attraction of new foreign credits to Ukraine at a later period.

To lay down obligatory preliminary examinations and subsequent registrations by the Finance Ministry of the international agreements of Ukraine, execution of which result in an increase of the Ukrainian national foreign debt or in a budget income decrease.

4. To lay personal responsibility on the chairmen of oblast, Kiev and Sevastopol rada executive committees for unconditional execution of Article 4 of the Act on State Budget of Ukraine for 1995.

To lay down that the state tax-inspection bodies, upon presentation by the Finance Ministry and local financial bodies, collect, in an unquestionable order, and distribute into the State Budget the funds which are, due to violation of the normal deductions from the whole-state taxes, charges, and other obligatory payments passed by parliament, placed in the budgets of other levels.

5. To lay down that all state non-budget funds and sectorial funds of ministries and departments submit to the Finance Ministry a monthly report on the incomes obtained, movement and expenditures of assets according to the form and within the terms set by the Statistics Ministry.

6. To recommend the National Bank of Ukraine solve the issue of paying monthly commercial banks to the State Budget by the 25th day of the month following the period under review, the percentage for using temporarily free balances of assets of the State Budget and state non-budget funds that are on separate accounts of ministries, departments, other bodies of the state executive power, budget establishments and organizations in

the amount of 30 percent of the National Bank discount rate that was active during the month under review.

To lay down that the banking establishments and communication enterprises pay a penalty for violating the payment orders movement and execution procedure on the incomes and expenditures of the State Budget in the amount of 5 percent of the delayed payment or remitted from budget sum for each day of delay.

The state tax inspections, upon presentation by the Finance Ministry and its local bodies, collect the sanction sums envisaged by part two of this article and place them to the State Budget income.

7. To lay down that ministries, other state executive power central bodies, enterprises, establishments, organizations have no right to remit the State Budget funds and state purpose-oriented funds to bank accounts of time deposits.

8. To recognize as invalid the sub-point "b" of the article 5, the articles 6, 8 and 9 of the Presidential Decree of June 18, 1993, No. 219 on the Order of Execution of Ukrainian State Budget.

9. To lay control over execution of this Decree on the Finance Ministry of Ukraine.

The President of Ukraine L. Kuchma
Kiev May 1, 1995 No. 343/95

Minister on Debt Issue, Ties With Russia, Iran

AU0905072395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 May 95 p 12

[Interview with Anatoliy Kostyantynovych Holubchenko, Ukraine's minister of industry, by journalist Lyudmyla Fisyun; place and date not given: "Our Saving Strategy Is To Return Hard Currency From Abroad, but Domestic Nonpayments Are the Main Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fisyun] In the presidential economic report published on 4 April, metallurgy enterprises are mentioned among those few that, since the beginning of the year, have been building up their potential. How have they managed this?

[Holubchenko] Indeed, starting January 1995, production has been on the rise. For example, last year, average daily production of cast iron amounted to 55,100 metric tons. In January 1995, it was 39,700 tons, in February — 46,300 tons, in March — 53,300 tons, and at the beginning of April, as much as 57,400 tons. In other words, in April, we will reach last year's average daily production level. Last year, the average daily production of steel equalled 64,100 tons; this January it was 48,500 tons, in February — 58,500 tons, and in March — 65,600 tons. Yes, with regard to steel, the metallurgists have already exceeded last year's indexes. Last year's average daily production of rolled metal was 46,600 tons; in January 1995, it was 34,100 tons, in February — 44,300 tons, in March 53,200 tons, and in early April, about 56,000 tons. We presently produce 10,000 tons of rolled metal a day more than was last year's daily average.

Therefore, there is some growth. The small credit — 6 trillion karbovantsi that we received in February 1995 — has now started to produce fruits.

[Fisyun] Ukraine's industrial enterprises are listed among the main debtors for gas. What is the situation with debt payoffs?

[Holubchenko] Our branch entreprises have never been main debtors for gas. When industry is mentioned in our country, it is sometimes associated with the Ministry of Industry. The Ministry of Industry is only in charge of metallurgy, chemistry, and woodworking. We are called the main debtor because nobody else has hard currency. When it comes to paying with hard currency, everybody recalls enterprises of the Ministry of Industry. Our debt is $114 million out of the total $2.5 billion.

[Fisyun] How many unprofitable enterprises do you intend to close down in the near future?

[Holubchenko] We have already handed in a list of some enterprises to be closed down. However, unfortunately, closing down enterprises costs much money.

There are not many enterprises under the Ministry of Industry among those that are being closed down. How can one close them down if they are earning hard currency? However, the problem does exist and it will be dealt with. I think that all unprofitable enterprises need to be restructured so that they could yield profit or, if this is impossible, they must be closed down. Incidentally, recently, jointly with trade unions, we held a conference on resolving the employment problem. We submitted proposals on halting the construction of the unfinished Tavriyskyy Mining and Concentration Combine and a number of chemical enterprises.

[Fisyun] How much will the halting of the Tavriyskyy Combine cost?

[Holubchenko] Unfortunately, very much. About the same sum as would be necessary to complete its construction.

[Fisyun] Anatoliy Kostyantynovych, there is a lot of talk about reports in the mass media to the effect that the Russian "Gazprom" [Gas Industry] intends to acquire the gas debt by controlling block of shares in Ukrainian enterprises, in particular profitable metallurgical and chemical combines. What is your reaction to this?

[Holubchenko] First, Russia is not raising the question of controlling blocks of shares. Second, this problem is still in the stage of preliminary discussion. Among the 15 enterprises of interest to "Gazprom," there are three or four chemical plants and one or two metallurgical combines. This is not too many. Of course, Russia would like to have ownership share in those Ukrainian enterprises for which there is nothing comparable at home. It is more expensive to build new enterprises. Ukraine should also proceed along the same road and buy Russian shares. For example, we have the Nikolayev aluminum plant with a capacity of 1.2 million metric tons of aluminum per year. We do not need this much. To whom can we sell it? To Russia. How? First and foremost, by acquiring shares in Russian aluminum plants — in Bratsk and Krasnoyarsk. Then they will buy our aluminum, and we will have a share of property in Russia. Even though Russia is also reluctant to opt for this alternative, it is reviewing the possibility. It is true, though, that there are objective difficulties there, because these Russian plants have already been sold out. However, we are continuing to work in this direction. Why can't we, for example, jointly use boreholes for oil and gas extraction? Russia does not object to that.

[Fisyun] With your permission, I will return to the issue of the Ministry of Industry's export capacities. I know that the return of hard currency is one of the problems. Is it like a saving strategy for Ukraine?

[Holubchenko] Over the two years, the turnover of the enterprises in the industry constituted $4.7 billion, including $80 million from the so-called disputed economic matters. This is approximately 1.6 percent of the total turnover in the two years. However, this is negligible compared with the trillions of nonpayments inside the country that amount to billions of U.S. dollars?

With regard to returning hard currency from abroad, we have returned $30 million over the last three months.

[Fisyun] You were in the Ukrainian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, that visited Iran. What are the main results of the negotiations?

[Holubchenko] It was a tripartite meeting: Ukraine-Turkmenistan-Iran. Turkmenistan initiated the meeting. The idea behind it was: To have the bilateral relations develop into tripartite wherever possible. A memorandum-protocol was signed at the foreign minister level. A protocol was prepared at the level of Ukrainian, Turkmenian, and Iranian ministers of industry. In essence, however, the agreement is not only relevant to the Ministry of Industry, but also to the fuel and energy complex. It is mainly a matter of joint projects on gas, electric energy, mineral fertilizers, and metal. For example, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, and Iran may take part in building the gas pipeline "Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe."

Besides, at the level of bilateral relations, Ukraine's Ministry of Power Engineering signed a protocol on the participation in the building of an electric power plant in Iran. A possibility was also considered of mutual settlements on Ukraine's payment for the Turkmenian gas through deliveries of goods from Iran to Turkmenistan. Possibly, this will be done in the following way: Turkmenistan will buy goods in Iran, and Ukraine will "pay" Iran with our goods: pipes, metal, and mineral fertilizers.

Officer on Commercial Espionage, Brain Drain

WS0805104595 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Mykola Kostyukov, head of a SBU department in charge of protecting sensitive state information from high-priority scientific branches, by Yegor Miloserdov; place and date not given: "Counterintelligence Officer Kostyukov Saved Intellectual Property of National Importance" — first three paragraphs are VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several years ago, companies from the United States, Germany, Israel, and France were trying to find information on a classified scientific project, that was being successfully developed by one of the academic institutes in Kiev. "Intelligence" activities were nearing completion: A Ukrainian scientist who had access to the information agreed to transfer documents to the foreigners, for which they wanted to pay some $100. Counterintelligence officers from the Ukrainian Security Service [SBU] metropolitan directorate made the decision then: It is time the ardor of the secret-hunters was cooled down.

Western businessmen never received the desired diskette and the institute retained its copyright. This means that when technology is applied in the production process, the National Treasury will receive considerable funds. According to experts, those revenues may reach hundreds of millions of dollars. Thus, thanks to the high professionalism of the people whose work is not advertised as a rule, the "leaking" of unique scientific information was prevented.

One of the counterintelligence officers who was directly engaged in saving intellectual property, has become a winner of the "Protection" traditional prize awarded by the VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI newspaper concern. Lieutenant Colonel Mykola Kostyukov is head of the SBU Kiev Branch Directorate, which provides protection for Ukraine's national property in priority sciences.

[Miloserdov] The work of counterintelligence officers is covered with a veil of mystery. Can we unveil it a bit?

[Kostyukov] I agree, but only within certain limits. Our unit's goals are: To counteract attempts by foreign companies and special services to collect classified information or obtain documents concerning scientific papers and advanced research conducted by Ukrainian scientists. In particular, when defense issues are concerned.

The intellectual potential of our academic and scientific research institutes is extremely high. Scientific centers in Kiev alone have so far designed more than 10 technologies that have no analogous counterparts in the world. By protecting Ukraine's right to sell the "know-how," the state receives huge hard currency dividends. However, the interested people abroad do not always act as gentlemen.

We have enough data about companies trying to get hold of a copyright. To achieve their goals, foreigners often try to solicit talented scientists by promising them heavenly living and working conditions. They also spend money on overt bribery of people who have access to information.

[Miloserdov] Wait a minute, are your judgments impartial? I understand that you, being a special service officer, should stay alert. However, do you have to see the "leaking" of secrets behind every meeting of a scientist with a foreigner?

[Kostyukov] As one U.S. president once said: "We finance science because we are rich. We are rich because we finance science." Within two years our unit thwarted more than 20 attempts by companies from developed states to secretly obtain data on unique research.

Operational information indicates that the governments of certain states have drafted long-term "brain drain" programs and are currently implementing them. Considerable funds are being allocated for this purpose, special centers and companies are being set up. Meanwhile on the outside, everything looks quite decent: Rich states are offering a helping hand to those who are experiencing crises.

Many scientific organizations regularly receive questionnaires with requests to elucidate certain issues under the pretext of creating databases or to "study the market." Once responses to the questions have been received, an analyst comes to know the direction of scientific research conducted by an institution, the degree of their completion, the fields in which the results can be implemented, the group of people who work on projects, and other important details.

There exists another scenario. Generalized information of scientific or economic nature is collected, disguised as consultative or expert assistance. Sometimes, there are requests for sample products and scientific documents for examination and promotion on Western markets.

[Miloserdov] How does counterintelligence behave in such situations?

[Kostyukov] We cannot prohibit scientific institution managers from making business contacts with foreigners, and this is not our goal. After conducting an operational investigation we provide useful information and recommendations on expedient ways of handling the problems. The managers later make their own decisions.

[Miloserdov] Do they listen to your recommendations?

[Kostyukov] Let me cite an example. Foreigners have addressed one of the chemistry institutes at the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences with requests for 10- to 15-gram samples of various synthetic chemical substances for examination in one of the Near East states. In the future, they were planning to sign contracts for the production of large volumes of those substances. That seemed to be an interesting offer, particularly since the institute could use it to significantly improve its financial situation. However, it turned out that the prices offered by the foreigners were three to 10 times lower than the world price. In addition, the synthesized substances could serve as components for the production of chemical weapons. The aforementioned aspects were discussed with the institute management and as a result, the agreement was not signed.

[Miloserdov] We have directly approached the issue of financing various scientific projects. Of course, the issue of the allocation of funds for research is not within the SBU's competence. Counterintelligence, however, probably deals with this problem to a certain extent.

[Kostyukov] To my regret at present, the state cannot provide full financing of research. Hard currency shortages have in fact prevented our scientists from taking part in international seminars, conferences, and symposiums. It is hard to obtain appropriate information from abroad. That is why most personal invitations, in which the foreign side undertakes to cover all the travel expenses, are accepted with gratitude. Once abroad, our scientists often disclose their ideas over a morning cup of coffee.

Low social status and financial hardships often push people with academic degrees and famous names to work abroad. Certain managers of scientific research institutes openly suggest that their specialists look for their own ways to implement their ideas.

Around 1,500 scientists from the Kiev area have recently gone to work in foreign scientific centers under long-term contracts. Many of those specialists have taken with them priceless capital, represented by bright heads. The "brain drain" has caused huge losses to the state — our scientific potential is being exhausted, and we are lagging behind the developed states. Experts have calculated that by inviting one top class specialist from abroad a state gains at least $500,000 in saved time and money, which would have otherwise been spent to train local specialists.

In my opinion, if we want to seriously think about the future, we should expedite the passing of enforceable acts that regulate intellectual property and commercial secrets, as well as establish rules for business contacts with foreigners and the exchange of information. The mechanism of financing science is important, too, in terms of guaranteeing the allocation of funds to talented and promising scientists and specialists.

The SBU is undertaking its own measures to prevent the admission of certain representatives of foreign states, special services, and companies to scientific research and design institutes in the spheres of national economy and defense, which are eligible for protection and serve Ukraine's movement to the forefront of scientific and technological progress.

Uranium Mining, Nuclear Fuel Cycle Viewed

WS0805121595 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 28 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by Olena Zvarych: "For Ukraine To Have Its Own Nuclear Fuel, We Have To 'Activate the Process.' The Uranium Industry: Can Reality and Projects Be Compatible?" — first paragraph published in box]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is extremely difficult for reality and projects to be compatible; their mutual friction distorts public opinion, which has an extremely scant comprehension and knowledge of the uranium industry and other related problems in Ukraine. There is a rising wave of discussion today regarding the general program for creating a nuclear fuel cycle, which has been worked out by the State Committee for Nuclear Energy [Derzhkomatom]. This program, in particular, provides for the threefold increase of uranium mining in Ukraine over the next several years. The best advertising for the program has been made by the Greens. Ukraine's branch of Greenpeace addressed the government last week with a demand to cancel the Cabinet of Ministers' resolution of 12 April "On the Creation of a Nuclear Fuel Cycle," to hold a broad debate on the program with the participation of bodies controlling the nuclear power industry, and to replace the nuclear fuel cycle program with a program for energy conservation. At the same time, neither the essence of the program, nor the current situation in the uranium industry, nor, finally, the dependence of our nuclear power industry on the currently sole source of nuclear fuel — Russia — are known to the general public, save, perhaps, for their most basic tenets.

Thus, first the reality. Ukraine's uranium industry is limited to the mining of uranium ore (there are currently two operational mines — the Inhulska mine, on the very outskirts of Kirovohrad, and the Vatutinska mine located 150 km away in Smolino, a mining settlement) and the production of uranium oxide and uranium hexafluoride at a hydrometallurgical plant of the Zhovti Vody Ore Enrichment Combine [ZVOEC]. This is only the beginning of the nuclear fuel cycle, which accounts for less than half the value of ready nuclear fuel. In addition, the transformation of uranium oxide into uranium hexafluoride, according to data from the Uranium Institute, accounts for only 4 percent of the value of fuel and is unattractive from a commercial point of view. In general, in accordance with the classic statement [by former President Leonid Kravchuk] during the first years of Ukraine's independence — "We have what we have,", Russia has all the rest. This is a consequence of the location of the Soviet Union's single nuclear fuel cycle: There remained several plants for enriching uranium-235 and enterprises producing fuel elements [TVEL] on Russian territory. In addition, Ukraine has been left without a training basis for preparing highly skilled specialists; this, in the opinion of Petro Perkov, director of the hydrometallurgical plant, will soon become a palpable problem for us under the current changes in nuclear personnel. As for the time being, attempts to create metallurgy departments for rare, dissipated [rozsiyani], and radioactive metals at the Zaporizkyy Metallurgical Institute have failed.

From the point of view of corporate interests, ZVOEC is interested in the creation of a nuclear fuel cycle in Ukraine — this means an expansion of production and modernization, an increase in uranium mining, and, consequently, an increase in profits. At the same time, by the end of March, when I visited Zhovti Vody (UKRAYINA MOLODA of 11 April 1995), the abovementioned program worked out by Derzhkomatom was viewed almost like a matter for the distant and bright future, while the immediate possibilities for the development of the uranium industry were discussed with somewhat pessimistic spirits. There were generally sad prognoses about possible production declines at the mines due to the supplies of Russian TVEL's to our nuclear power plants, which began on a rather regular basis by the end of 1994, according to interstate agreements, in exchange for fuel from nuclear weapons dismantled by Ukraine. With such a pace of exchange, which is conducted rather dynamically (40 percent of the warheads have already been transferred to Russia), Russian TVEL's will be dispatched to us over the next three years, at the minimum. As for insinuations with regard to increased state orders for uranium mining, they still seem to be of a rather illusory nature.

It must be recalled that environmental pollution, which is being spotlighted by the Greens, is the irreversible fate of this mining region. At least, as long as up-to-date cleanup technologies remain expensive, and therefore unpopular, for our industry. For hundreds of years, this was a region for mining and processing iron ore (it was surely this ore that was "coloring" the river — which has since dwindled to nothing more than a brook — across the centuries, and which earned the name — Zhovti Vody [Yellow Waters] — for the settlement). It will still take centuries to exploit rich natural deposits here: iron ore, uranium ore and its almost inseparable companion — gold, ores of nonferrous and rare-earth metals... For example, the pioneer of uranium mining — a mine in Zhovti Vody, which exhausted its uranium deposits a decade or so ago — has become an additional source of profits for ZVOEC: It exploits deposits of apatite ore [molokonapatytova ruda], from which scandium is extracted. This fairly rare metal (the name of which is derived from Skandia in Latin, thus immortalizing its discovery on the Scandinavian peninsula) is used in the form of alloys in aviation and electronics, and is priced... at least ten times higher than gold. Incidentally, there is a Ukrainian-Canadian-U.S. joint venture, VostHOK-Ashur, operational at the ZVOEC for several years. Its "treasury" — a small room at the hydrometallurgical plant, where slabs of aluminum-scandium alloy are being stored — turned out to be the only place where our photographer was prevented from taking pictures.

Taking into account the deposits of uranium ore proper, experts are optimistic in their predictions for the next century. "The ore reserves of the two operating mines and the newly prospected Novokostyantynivskyy deposit are enough to provide all of Ukraine's 14 nuclear reactors, plus those five units planned for construction, with our own raw material for nuclear fuel for a period of 100 years," Anatoliy Chernov, deputy head of the Derzhkomatom, assures.

In general, however, even taking into account our unutilized deposits, it is hardly probable that in the ranking of world leaders [in uranium production] Ukraine will place higher than 13th place (see table below).

Given the current pace of mining, uranium ore reserves at the Inhulska mine will be sufficient for approximately 15 years, at the Smolino mine — 25 years. Great hopes are being pinned on the considerably more promising Novokostyantynivske deposit, which was prospected in the 1980's. Its prospecting and initial exploitation, according to certain statements, cost nearly 160 million rubles; at the beginning of conversion, however, due to the lack of a clear state policy with regard to the uranium industry, work at the deposit was halted in 1992. Reactivation of work at the deposit, according to the Derzhkomatom program, must begin no earlier than in a year [as published]. By all appearances, work will be resumed from a level of near-zero — according to mining engineers, "everything that could be stolen was taken long ago" from the site of the still-not-fully developed deposit.

A fundamental increase in the mining of uranium ore is the cause of most of the controversy. On the one hand, arguments include prognoses with regard to an increase in prices for uranium by the end of this century. Experts predict that given the current demand for uranium of 50,000 tonnes [per year] (with offers amounting to 36,000 tonnes), its price over the next few years will increase threefold. On the current spot market [spotovyy rynak] (short-term contracts), the price of 1 kg of Ukrainian uranium ranges between $16 and $18.. Taking into account the fact that the annual demand of Ukraine's nuclear power industry amounts to 1.64 million tonnes of uranium [as published], its purchases will become a heavy burden on the state budget in a few years' time. On the other hand, farsighted pragmatists propose to follow the policies of rich countries (for instance, the United States), which actively create state reserves [of uranium], partially halt work at certain deposits, and satisfy their needs for uranium with purchases from other countries. It should be added that such protection of natural deposits is a prerogative of states with rich and healthy economies. Will such a path be possible for Ukraine?

The conceptual advantage of the state program for creating a nuclear fuel cycle in Ukraine lies in the fact that our state will at last pursue a clear policy with regard to the uranium industry. There was no such policy during the first years of independence, when the global "nuclear club" pressed us to resolve the issue of nuclear disarmament and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty; there is also no such policy now, when the mechanism of "exchanging" our raw uranium for nuclear fuel from Russia does not fully suit us. For example, according to ZVOEC General Director

Mykhaylo Babak, there was the following scheme in operation in 1994: The combine sold $13 million worth of natural uranium concentrate; a part of that sum was spent to cover the technical needs of our nuclear power plants, while the larger part was sold abroad. [sentence as published] Revenues from selling uranium currently account for 40 percent of payments for fuel supplies for Ukraine's nuclear power industry.

In any case, all roads for supplying Ukraine with TVEL's lead to Moscow. The program for creating a nuclear fuel cycle in Ukraine is intended to avoid such a dangerous situation of dependency. In view of the development of Ukrainian-Russian relations, this is, for political reasons, the greatest plus of the program.

Generally speaking, the program, in addition to the above-mentioned increase in uranium mining, envisions the production of zirconium pipes for fuel assemblies in Dniprodzerzhinsk (the mining of zirconium has been launched in Volnohirsk) and the construction of a plant producing fuel assemblies not far from Zhovti Vody. To attain a closed nuclear fuel cycle, one needs to have an expensive and energy-intensive process of enriching uranium-235, which, according to Mr. Chernov, "will be carried out abroad, possibly in France or the FRG." There will soon be a closed tender registered for new technologies in the production of [nuclear] fuel, with the participation of U.S., Swiss, German, French, and Russian firms including, in particular, the renowned ABB [expansion unknown] and Westinghouse companies, which are considered to be among those most probable to win. It is interesting that people in Derzhkomatom do not hide their dissatisfaction with the quality of Russian nuclear fuel, when they say that if Ukraine's nuclear power plants had been operating with high-quality fuel, it would have been possible to save over $100 million a year. Therefore, there exist opinions that the protest of Greenpeace has been stirred up by a party doomed to lose in the tender and, generally, in this lucrative Ukrainian market.

The program worked out by Derzhkomatom provides for $993.3 million in capital investments, which, according to calculations, should be repaid in four years. Ukraine will have its own nuclear fuel cycle in the year 2000 if, of course, "the process is activated"...

World's Leaders in Uranium Mining (1994)

Country	Amount in Tonnes	Percent of Global Mining
1. Canada	9,177	28.1
2. Nigeria	2,900	8.8
3. Uzbekistan	2,600	8.0
4. Russia	2,500	7.6
5. Kazakhstan	2,300	7.0
6. Australia	2,300	7.0
7. Namibia	1,910	5.9
8. South Africa	1,723	5.3
9. France	1,700	5.2
10. United States	1,673	5.0
11. China	1,000	3.0
Other countries	3,030	9.1

It is believed that Canada will enter the 21st century as the world's leader in uranium mining — this country continues to visibly increase the mining of uranium ore. Until 1991, this table looked differently: Second place was occupied by the Soviet Union, with 25 percent of world's uranium mining.

Belarus

Chygir Arrives in UK for VE Day Celebrations

LD0605191795 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarusian 1600 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Belarusian delegation headed by Prime Minister Mikhail Chygir arrived in the British capital this morning to take part in celebrations of the 50th anniversary of VE Day. Foreign Affairs Minister Uladzimir Syanko is also a member of the delegation. The program for the two-day stay of the Belarusian delegation includes participation in all the official events dedicated to that significant event. A number of meetings with representatives of government and business circles are planned [words indistinct]. The Belarusian delegation will leave for Paris in the evening of 7 May.

Columnist Views Western Stance on Russia, Iran Deal

WS0905103995 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian
6 May 95 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Rostikov: "Will There Be a Parade Commemorating Victory in Cold War?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week, I returned from Moscow where I had seen with my own eyes the colossal preparations for the 50th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany. The preparations have entered their final stage. I mean not only the grand organizational measures — parade drills for veterans of that distant war, as well as for Russia's Ground Troops and the Air Force, but also the unseen construction projects. It is enough to mention the Poklonnaya Gora memorial alone. In my opinion however, most impressive, although unseen, are the political preparations by those state leaders who are going to Moscow. Behind the superficial fuss, there lies the rigid logic of the development of contemporary political events.

Boris Yeltsin is going to use the grandeur of the upcoming celebrations to demonstrate that Russia is alive, strong, and its people can be unified around one prominent idea — to revive, and occupy an appropriate position in the world. He is correct in believing so. Another matter though, is whether the Russian president is capable of accomplishing this. Western leaders will have a chance to give it some indepth thought. They will try to calculate again whether they should place their stakes on Yeltsin or look for a more suitable and compliant figure for the 1996 presidential elections in Russia. I believe that this "inspection" is one of the major reasons for bringing together the Western leaders in Moscow.

There are discussions of the war in Chechnya and indeed, this issue will inevitably be raised at Yeltsin's meeting with U.S. President Clinton. Clinton's initial argument to the effect, that Chechnya is Russia's domestic problem, at present is not very acceptable by the Washington establishment. The latter prefers to take further advantage of Russia's defeat in the cold war, and continues its onslaught along the entire political and economic forefront.

Part of this scheme are the Clinton administration's attempts to derail Russia's contract for the delivery of nuclear reactors to Iran. More and more arguments are being sought and all means are being used, ranging from refusal to jointly use the space for peaceful purposes to the already customary threats to freeze the issuance of credits. Meanwhile, if Russia's cooperation with Iran continues to develop, it may yield profits many times higher than the promised U.S. assistance. The United States, however, takes into account solely its own reasoning, and only that part of it which suits its goals.

At the same time, most West European states, keeping watch over their own interests, have refused to support the U.S. sanctions regarding the contract with Iran. Will Russia be able to withstand this attack?

I do not think that in the future anybody will hold a parade to mark the end of the cold war. The end of that war was in line with the interests of all the world nations. Calculating politicians should do everything in their power not to make anyone among those nations feel like a loser.

Meanwhile three days from now, parades will be held in Minsk and Moscow to mark the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory. I hope it will be a sunny day.

Lukashenka, Armenia's President Meet in Minsk

WS0805141595 Minsk BTK Television Network
in Belarusian 1800 GMT 6 May 95

[Video report by Yu. Shamshur and S. Hamberh — correspondents identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official delegation of the Republic of Armenia, headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, made a stop on its way to Great Britain at Minsk-2 Airport today. According to information obtained from officials, this short visit to our country was not planned. Nevertheless, by mutual consent, the presidents of Belarus and Armenia decided to hold a short meeting.

As is known, this is the first bilateral meeting between the two presidents. As for economic cooperation between Belarus and Armenia, it is less conspicuous than that between other republics of the former Soviet Union.

[Begin recording] [Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, in Russian] We have just discussed this. All of the problems, as I was told by Levon Akopovich [Ter-Petrosyan], lie in transportation, communications, and railways, in terms of supplies of products. We consented to conclude a large-scale treaty and — as was the case with Russia — to expand it with a number of other agreements.

[Shamshur, addressing Ter-Petrosyan, in Russian] Which do you prefer — to develop bilateral relations between countries or through structures such as the CIS?

[Ter-Petrosyan, in Russian] I will tell you confidently and, at the same time openly: I know from my personal experience that bilateral agreements work much better than collective ones. [end recording]

Moldova

Snegur Appoints Head of Dniester Status Drafting Panel

AU0805145695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1922 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 6/5/1995 — The Moldovan president [Mircea Snegur] has appointed Minister of Justice Mihai Busuleac head of the Governmental Commission for Preserving the Territorial Integrity of the Republic of Moldova. He will head the working group of the Moldovan experts drafting the law on the special status for the Dniester region.

Formerly the commission was headed by the former fist deputy minister of foreign affairs, Nicolae Osmochescu, who was relieved from that post and appointed member of the Constitutional Court.

For two months the experts' group had no leader, which gave grounds to Tiraspol leaders to accuse Chisinau of reluctance to solve the Dniester problem. These two months, there were neither working sessions of the Chisinau and Tiraspol expert teams, nor summits of the Moldovan and Dniester leaders, initially planned to be held every month.

Last time, the leaders met on 15 February and rejected everything the experts had prepared for their consideration. Most probably, these teams, after a new team leader was appointed in Chisinau, will have to begin drafting everything from the zero. A a new summit may only be held after the experts manage to yield something.

Chisinau once stated that the summit might be held in early May. Tiraspol believed this was impossible, because there was yet nothing to discuss. And the probable "something" can be prepared no earlier than the end of May, at best.

IMF Praises Financial Stabilization, Low Inflation

AU0805145995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1922 GMT 6 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 6/5/1995 — There are grounds to presume that the production decline in Moldova may be arrested already in 1995, Mr. Michel Camdessus, managing director and chairman of the executive board of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] stated in the Moldovan Parliament today. He arrived in Chisinau on Saturday, 6 May, for a two-day visit.

According to him, the aim of the IMF and donor-countries will be in making 1995 the turning point on the way of rehabilitation of the Moldovan economy.

The rehabilitation seeds have been planted already, and the first sprouts have emerged: financial stability and low rate of inflation, which was under 1 percent in March, he said. He reminded that since early 1992, when Moldova joined the IMF, it received almost $200 million worth of credits. This year, the IMF approved a new stand-by arrangement which will make credits available in support of the government's economic program for 1995. In his opinion, very few countries in the former Soviet Union or eastern Europe can boast of such results in financial stabilization, like the ones achieved by Moldova since its national currency unit has been introduced in November 1993.

At the same time the IMF head stressed that financial stability cannot last long without economic growth. It is necessary to conduct further restructuring, achieve price stabilization, and the soonest possible implementation of the bankruptcy law. Also, a package of laws has to be adopted without delay that would promote capital investments in the Moldovan economy.

In Mr. Camdessus' opinion, Moldova should concentrate efforts on the strong sectors of its economy, primarily on agriculture and food processing industry. He named land as Moldova's chief treasure, and stated that

Moldovan farmers should be free to chose the most profitable crops. It is very important for them to have guarantees that the government will be paying market prices for their produce, and allow for no delays in the payments.

Michel Camdessus met with the president and the prime minister of the country, the governor of the national bank, and with members of the Moldovan Government, and spoke at the press conference Saturday night.

Kazakhstan

Defense Minister Urges CIS States To 'Work Together'

MM0905084395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 95 pp 2,3

[Article by Hero of the Soviet Union Army General Sagadat Nurmagambetov, defense minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, under the general heading "Victory — Our Common Destiny, Our Common Memory, Pride, and Glory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] For the present generation the events of 50 years ago are distant history. Our duty is to do everything to ensure that young people know about our people's combat and labor exploit, from their example learn to love the motherland, increase its might and prosperity by their own labor, and foster a sense of patriotism and internationalism.

In May our Armed Forces will be marking the third anniversary of their creation. Despite their youth, they are capable of carrying out the main function of protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Kazakhstan as required by our Constitution.

In accordance with the concept of the organization and development of the Armed Forces and the military doctrine, the Armed Forces are completing the reorganization of troop structures, the recertification of cadres, the formation of a military-technical policy which takes into account the economic potential for training, and the process of the combat coordination of units and subunits.

When resolving the vitally important problems of the transformation of society and the state, our republic from the very earliest days of its existence has advocated the strengthening of peace and security, the creation of a common structure for the military system and the comprehensive security of the CIS countries, and economic integration.

In this context mention should be made of such initiatives by Kazakhstan as the idea of the creation on our continent of Asian security and cooperation structures; the adoption of the decision on Kazakhstan's adherence to the Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Treaty; support for the Partnership for Peace Program; and the signing of a whole series of documents between Kazakhstan and Russia, other CIS states, and countries elsewhere in the world.

We have many problems, as do the Armed Forces of Russia and other CIS countries. We must work together to resolve these problems and do everything to strengthen and develop contacts between us.

Anti-Nazarbayev Cossack Arrested in Pavlodar

MM0805143895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hetman Who Opposed Nazarbayev Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hetman Nikolay Shibanov of the Siberian Cossack Host was arrested in Pavlodar (Kazakhstan) last Wednesday [3 May], INTERFAX was told on Thursday by the Russian Federation Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links With Compatriots. According to a spokesman for Kazakhstan's law-enforcement organs, N. Shibanov was engaged in distributing pamphlets urging the republic's citizens to vote against President Nursultan Nazarbayev's term of office being extended through the year 2000.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Leads Delegation to Great Britain, France

LD0505170895 Bishkek Kyrgyz Television First Channel in Russian 1430 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Today the Kyrgyz Republic state delegation led by President Askar Akayev flew out on an official visit to the United Kingdom and the French Republic.

[Begin recording] [Ishenbay Abdurazakov, presidential advisor on international affairs] Today the official delegation led by the president is flying to London to attend the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The delegation will cross the English Channel by train to Paris, attend similar ceremonies, and then go on to Moscow. The president and the members of the delegation will attend the 50th anniversary victory celebrations.

In addition, the president plans to visit the BBC on 6 May, i.e. tomorrow, and give an interview to a correspondent of the FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper.

In Paris, however, it will simply be participation in ordinary protocol.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are any documents expected to be signed, perhaps of a political or economic nature?

[Abdurazakov] No, they are not. No documents are expected to be signed. However, I am not excluding the possibility that the president will met leaders of several states, since usually presidents take this opportunity when they are together. I am absolutely confident he will have talks with the leaders of several states, but they will bear simply a general character, non-protocol. [end recording]

[Announcer] Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov, State Secretary Jumabek Ibraimov, Mikhail Romanov, ambassador of Russian Federation to Kyrgyzstan, and also the heads of several ministries and departments saw the official delegation off at Manas airport.

Defense Minister Subanov Writes on VE Day

MM0905084295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 95 p 3

[Article by Lieutenant General Myrzakan Subanov, defense minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, under the general heading "The Victory Was Our Common Destiny, Our Common Memory, Pride, and Glory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The republic's citizens find themselves living under new conditions, but they do not forget that they won the glorious victory over fascism in firm unity with the other peoples of the USSR. This is not forgotten, either, when it comes to developing their own armed forces in the republic.

National Armed Forces were created during the first stage of this development (1992-1994).

In that period the numerical strength of the Armed Forces was reduced from 18,912 servicemen to 12,281. The fundamental principle of military organization and development in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan is that of reasonable defense sufficiency.

The main aim of stage two of the reform (1995-1996) is the creation of a small, mobile army, materially well equipped, provided with effective arms and military hardware systems, and capable of protecting the Republic of Kyrgyzstan against external encroachments both by itself and through the joint efforts of the CIS member states.

One of the main areas of the Republic Defense Ministry's activity is the establishment and development of military cooperation with the other CIS states. In 1994 the Kyrgyzstani side signed more than 30 agreements and decisions on a multilateral basis within the framework of the CIS Defense Ministers' Council.

On questions of military organization and development great attention is being paid to the development of bilateral relations with other CIS states. First and foremost this means our mutual relations with the Russian Federation, with which we are linked not only politically and economically but also historically. The foundation for mutually beneficial and equitable cooperation in the military sphere was laid in 1993 with the signing of the interstate Treaty on Cooperation in the Military Sphere. There are 4,000 Russian military installations functioning on Republic of Kyrgyzstan territory at present on the basis of that treaty. The Agreement between the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation on the Military Service and Status of Russian Citizens in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan Armed Forces is of the utmost importance to us.

Tajikistan

Military Parade Held; Rakhmanov Leaves for Moscow

LD0805153095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, May 8 (Interfax) — A military parade was held in Dushanbe on Monday [8 May] to mark the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in World War Two.

Troops op Tajikistan's Defense, Interior and Security ministries and of the Russian 201st Motorized Infantry Division, which forms part of a peacekeeping force deployed in the Central Asian republic, took part in the parade, reviewed by Defense Minister Sherali Khayrulloyev.

Khayrulloyev made a speech, in which he said 250,000 people from Tajikistan had fought in World War Two. One quarter of them were killed. Tens of thousands were decorated, 51 being awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The same day an official Tajik delegation led by President Emomali Rakhmanov left for Moscow to take part in Victory Day celebration.

Decree Issued on Exchange Rate for New Currency

LD0905082595 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0915 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan,issued 5 May 1995 "On setting the exchange rate of the Tajik ruble against foreign currencies":

In order to ensure the stability and convertibility of the Tajik ruble against foreign currencies on the basis of the established real correlation, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan resolve that:

1. The exchange rate of the Tajik ruble against the U.S. dollar is to be specified in line with the rate according to the results of hard currency trading at the Tajik Interbank Foreign Currency Exchange.

2. The exchange rate of the Tajik ruble against other foreign currencies is to be specified on the crossrates

basis, using the rates of these currencies against the U.S. dollar as an intermediate (third) currency.

3. The official rate of the Tajik ruble against foreign currencies is to be set and announced by the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan following the results of [currency] trading at the Tajik Interbank Foreign Currency Exchange.

4. The National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan is to set the bank margin for authorized banks and exchange offices dealing in foreign currency.

[Signed] Jamshed Karimov, prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan;

M. Alimardonov, chairman of the National Bank of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Armenia

President Visits London To Attend VE Day Festivities

NC0805135695 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1458 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 05/07/95 — A delegation of the Republic of Armenia, headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, left for London on May 6, to participate in celebration of 50th anniversary of victory in World War II in Europe.

Governmental press service reported that special envoy of the Queen and Government of Great Britain and Armenian Ambassador Armen Sargisyan have met the delegation in Heathrow airport of London.

A dinner, dedicated to 50th anniversary of the victory was held in the evening, with participation of the Queen Elizabeth II, Prime Minister John Major, leaders of 56 world countries, Royal family, members of British Government, veterans of war.

The delegation was planning to leave for Paris on the next day, to participate in similar celebrations there. They will also participate in celebrations in Moscow on May 9.

Iran To Supply Natural Gas for 20 Years

LD0805173895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1654 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, May 8 (INTERFAX) — Iran has agreed to supply Armenia with natural gas for 20 years, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan said on Sunday [7 May].

Bagratyan told a news conference he signed an accord to that effect during a visit he made to Iran on May 3-6.

Under the document, a special pipeline is to be built to pump Iranian gas to Armenia, the prime minister said. "Having an alternative pipeline, Armenia may in future also become a transit country," he added.

Bargatyan said he had also signed an agreement for Armenia to receive electricity from the neighboring country via a transmission line to be built between Skhara in Iran and Megri in Armenia. He said the agreement was extremely important, "not only because (Armenia) will be receiving electricity from Iran but also because (it) will join that powerful electricity system."

The premier assessed his visit as "an enormous advance for Armenia in forming a market economy and in the privatization process, and also in the creation of conditions for the entry of the republic into the external market."

He said one of the main results of the visit was that the two countries had laid a legal foundation for developing their "interstate and intergovernmental relations."

Altogether some 15 documents were signed during Bagratyan's stay in Iran that deal with taxation, investment, trade, energy, health care, education and sports.

Over the last four years, trade between Armenia and Iran has increased fifteenfold. Today Iran is Armenia's second biggest trading partner after Russia.

Fuel Prices Increase, Harm Price Structure

NC0805193695 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1602 GMT 8 May 95

[From the "Economic Review" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 08/05/95 NOYAN TAPAN — The increase of fuel price by 50 percent for the week (from 130 to 190 drams for one liter) began rupturing the formed price balance on the consumer market. First of all, this effected such staple products as sugar and potatoes. The sugar and potato prices increased by 18.5 and 25 percent respectively, totalling 320 and 200 drams for one kg. However, fluctuations of prices for the rest consumer products, especially that for vegetables and fruits, are not noticeable yet. The index of prices for all consumer goods can be calculated as 1.05.

According to the Department for Plant-Growing of the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture, as of May 5, 60,095 hectares of cereals were sown (55 percent of the total volumes). 6,278 hectares of fodder crops were sown (15 percent of the planned area). 15,191 hectares of potatoes were also planted.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Interviewed on Relations With Iran

MS0805100895 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 8 May 95 p 4

[Report by Bruce Clark, incorporating interview with President Geydar Aliyev; in London, date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Geydar Aliyev of the strategically placed oil-producing nation of Azerbaijan said yesterday he wanted to avoid any further worsening of relations with Iran, despite the U.S. campaign to isolate the Tehran government.

Mr Aliyev confirmed his country had been forced by its exploration partners to drop plans to transfer to Iran a quarter of its stake in a $7.4bn (4.6bn pounds) project to exploit three oilfields in the Caspian Sea.

But the Azeri leader, interviewed in London where he was attending VE-day celebrations, stressed that this decision was taken under pressure, and his government wanted to limit the resulting damage.

"Our relations with Iran have run into some difficulties," Mr Aliyev said. "We had offered 5 per cent out of our (20 per cent) share to Iran, but the U.S. opposed this."

U.S. companies make up nearly half the consortium which last September signed the "contract of the century" to exploit three Caspian deposits expected to become one of the world's main energy sources next century.

As Mr Aliyev described it, his government had at first objected, saying it should have a free hand in disposing of its own share. But then "there was a meeting of the consortium, where there is a rule of unanimity, and we were deprived of the possibility of making the transfer to Iran.

"The Iranians were very offended... but we do not want to complicate our relations with Iran, because we have a long common border and we are joint users of the Caspian."

He was speaking after a meeting with Mr John Browne, chief executive-designate of British Petroleum, which leads the consortium. Mr Aliyev said discussions focused on what route to use to transport consortium output westwards.

The U.S. government favours a Turkish route, while Moscow wants the oil to pass through Russia.

The Azeri leader said all main options, including the Russian one, remained open, but he specified that a route to Turkey via Armenia — which would be among the shortest could only be contemplated if "many preconditions" were fulfilled. The final decision, Mr Aliyev stressed, would be determined by strategic as well as commercial factors.

"For us political and economic considerations have equal significance," said the president, an ex-member of the Soviet Politburo who has steered his country away from Moscow but is regarded as a formidably flexible diplomat.

Listing other options, he said: "The oil companies have an interest, and we have an interest, in the pipeline going through Turkey, but there is a question as to how it would get to Turkey: through Georgia, or Iran, or — though this is not possible now — through Armenia."

He said a route to Turkey via Armenia would be "very difficult for public opinion to accept" after seven years of war which had left 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory under foreign occupation and created a million refugees.

Other alternatives include a pipeline to Novorossisk on the Black Sea, or even linking up with the Russian pipeline network as far as the Baltic Sea.

Defense Minister on VE Day, Collective Security Pact

MM0905084895 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 May 95 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General Safar Abiyev, defense minister, under the general heading "Victory — Our Common Destiny, Our Common Memory, Pride, and Glory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In connection with the adoption on 18 October 1991 of the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan a need arose to ensure our national security. Military organization and development in Azerbaijan are being implemented in accordance with our assessment of the danger of war, reasonable defense sufficiency, and the state's economic potential.

The Armed Forces are the basis of the republic's defense. In the general system of national security they are designed to protect the state's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensure the inviolability of borders, prevent aggression against the state, and repulse aggression if it occurs.

Our armed forces are structured on legal principles in accordance with the Republic of Azerbaijan Constitution, existing legislation, and international legal acts. A number of agreements on cooperation with the Russian Federation in the military sphere are currently being elaborated and prepared for examination.

I should like to dwell in particular on the Collective Security Treaty. When signing the treaty the Republic of Azerbaijan proceeded from the assumption that it regulates the security of each CIS member state. It would be a mistake to believe that protection against external aggression is possible without ensuring security within the CIS. Unfortunately the Republic of Azerbaijan's amendments to the present treaty, which have a direct bearing on the settlement of both the protracted Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and other conflicts on the territory of the CIS states, have still not been taken into account.

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict was not taken seriously from the very outset. There was no specific plan of action to eliminate the seat of tension right at the beginning. Over 20,000 people have died in Azerbaijan alone in that period, around 100,000 have been wounded or disabled, and over 6,000 have been taken prisoner, many of them women, old people, and children, in other words, the civilian population of the occupied regions of the republic. More than 1 million citizens have become refugees in their own land and around 700 population centers have been destroyed.

Now, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the common Victory of all the peoples of the former USSR over fascism, we have to note with great regret the danger of mutual confrontation. At the same time the unanimous decision on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Victory Day gives grounds for hoping for positive changes in relations between our states, the ensuring of stability and security in the CIS, and the economic and social progress of our peoples.

Russian, CIS Officials Fail to Release POWs

LD0805152295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, May 7 (Interfax) — A delegation of Russia's Federation Council and CIS Interparliamentary Assembly during its five day trip to Karabakh "failed to cope in full with the set tasks, nor did they secure the exchange by the conflicting sides of all prisoners and hostages." This was declared in an interview with Interfax on Sunday on a plane bound for Moscow by Vadim Gustov, chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for CIS Affairs, who led the delegation.

"We hoped that because of the anniversary of the truce in Karabakh, marked on May 12, the sides would exchange prisoners and hostages by the 'all to all' principle in keeping with the International Red Cross lists," he noted. All the more so, he added, Armenia and Azerbaijan had signed and Karabakh had joined the 1949 Geneva Convention on POWs, obliging the conflicting parties to release and repatriate prisoners of war without delay at the end of active combat actions.

Among the reasons why this "humane act" has remained on paper, Gustov called the sides mistrust in the Red Cross statistics by which there are 30 Azeri POWs and hostages in Armenia, 130 Azeris in Karabakh, and 70 Armenians in Azerbaijan. [sentence as received] "Each side believes the other side has far more hostages and POWs," he said.

At the same time, Gustov voiced confidence that part of the POWs and hostages would still be released by May 12. He cited the Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan as announcing at a meeting with the delegation of the Russian Federation Council and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly that Armenia's Security Council would be convened on May 10 to discuss ways of releasing all the 30 Azeri POWs and hostages, listed in the Red Cross reports.

"The position of Azerbaijan is much of a puzzle for us, even though Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev declared at a meeting with the delegation that if Armenia freed hostages and prisoners, Baku would not stay aside from this process," Gustov said.

By Baku's official information, which is much at odds with Red cross data, there are 25 POWs, one Armenian pillager, and nine Armenians suspected of various offences.

However, the Armenian side, as Baku claims, holds more than 4000 Azeris in Armenia and 130 in Karabakh, as the Red Cross believes.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly voiced readiness to swap prisoners of war and hostages by the principle "all to all", however the republic's security chief Namig Abbasov made it clear to the delegation of the Russian Federation Council and CIS Interparliamentary Assembly that this step could be taken only after the fate of all persons who figure in Azeri lists was cleared up.

Foreign Ministry: Nagorno-Karabakh Elections Illegal

NC0805140195 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1458 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku ("AZG" daily-IMA-PRESS), 05/03/95 — The Azeri Foreign Ministry declared that parliamentary elections, held in the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] on April 30, were illegal, and violated international legal norms.

According to the Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "actions of Armenian separatists on occupied Azeri territories, including in the RMK, which has declared itself independent, have the goal to fail implementation of peace negotiations, and may aggravate the relations between Baku and Yerevan".

Karabakh Leader: Peace Talks Need Stronger Army

LD0905122595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] STEPANAKERT, May 9 (Interfax) — President Kocharyan of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic favors further development of the national armed forces.

"A stable Karabakh and a stronger army are the guarantors of the cease-fire agreement signed a year ago, and of successful peace talks with Azerbaijan," he told the meeting in Stepanakert on Monday [8 May], commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and the 3rd anniversary of the liberation of Shusha.

"War will break out if our enemy sees that we are losing strength," he said. He also accused Azerbaijan of trying to "bring the young republic down on its knees."

"We have emerged from this war, possibly from its first stage, different from what we used to be. We have rid ourselves of the victim complex and the feeling of geopolitical doom," he said.

Causes of Manat's Drop Against Dollar Examined

MM0905102095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 95 First Edition p 10

[Article by Petr Kotov: "Manat's 'Black Sunday'" — from the "Economic Union" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that sooner or later every soft currency in the former Soviet area will have its own "black day."

The U.S. dollar, which is in the other pan of the currency scales, is becoming markedly and antiscientifically heavier, instantaneously sucking in thousands of soft rubles, laris, and karbovantsy. And manats.

The first Sunday in April was a black Sunday for the Azerbaijani national currency, the manat, whose value has rapidly dwindled in recent months. True, Baku has its own specific Oriental characteristics. There the currency dance is largely determined by the "black market," and this, the officially nonexistent subject of so many actions by the authorities, has become the epicenter of the collapse of the manat, whose rate against the overseas dollar has settled at five thousand to one (5,000:1).

Of course, there have been much steeper currency falls in the history of nearby foreign countries' financial systems. In virtually one fell swoop the manat lost a little over 10 percent of its value.

Meanwhile it was important to ascertain the reasons for this leap by the dollar, bearing in mind that Azerbaijan, like a number of other post-Soviet states, is already bound by tough commitments given to the IMF. And by standard commitments at that — the doctors from the IMF invariably prescribe a reduction of the budget deficit and the curbing of inflation by reducing subsidies and radically limiting monetary emission. Then suddenly there is this turn of events with the dollar, whose purpose usually boils down to the appearance in the money market of spare resources hastily converted into hard currencies.

Something similar, which naturally does not serve the cause of building IMF confidence, also happened in Azerbaijan. It was possible to quite quickly identify those who benefited from all this. Strange as it may seem, a search had to be made right under the state lamp, where there seems to be more light.

It emerged that the National Bank was in a hurry to issue rather large credits. Moreover, the credit rate was set on the basis not of current inflation indicators but of a few embellished figures planned in talks with the IMF. Today's money at yesterday's possibly favorable rates, so to speak.

Naturally, as has often been observed in Russia, the extrapreferential money obtained was immediately converted. And, it is claimed, by far from official means. Sensing an unexpected "fattener," the dollar immediately became "bloated," causing alarm among state experts as well as ordinary citizens suffering from inflation.

Evidently there is no point talking about the real reasons behind this transaction, when on the eve of the introduction of new tough measures some people were allowed, as the saying goes, to grab as much of the action as they wanted. Currency operations continue to yield the maximum "rake-off" in the expanses of the post-Soviet area, while tens and hundreds of commercial banks owe their existence to the dollar's leaps and instantaneous conversion.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Decrees Restructuring of Foreign Trade

LD0705153495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 7 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has issued a decree on improving the mechanism for coordinating and managing foreign economic relations. The decree says in particular that improvements in economic and financial stabilization in the republic, agreements signed with international organizations and foreign countries, and the consistent implementation of IMF and World Bank recommendations have considerably increased the possibility for attracting foreign investment to Georgia and involving the Georgian economy in the international integration process. The interests of foreign countries' business circles in Georgia's economic potential is steadily increasing. This creates the opportunity to step up sharply foreign economic activity in the near future.

In this connection, the foreign trade system requires significant restructuring. The decree envisages carrying out appropriate measures to this effect. The decree will be published in the press.

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Domestic, Foreign Issues

LD0805120095 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1045 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 8 May — In his regular Monday [8 May] radio interview, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze discussed the economic situation in the country and the visit to Georgia by IMF Director Michel Camdessus. Shevardnadze said that the visit to Georgia by such a prestigious and influential financier was a sign of interest in Georgia on the part of international business circles. As regards the economic situation, industry has become active recently. Industrial output in April was double that for the whole of the first quarter.

The head of state discussed the issue of disarming the Rescue Corps. He noted that the leadership of the Rescue Corps met with understanding the decision to disarm the organization. The weapons should be surrendered voluntarily, but there should also be a certain degree of supervision. Shevardnadze said that he forgave the Rescue Corps for the Rustavi incident when its members attacked Levan Mamaladze, the head of the Kvemo Kartli administration. Shevardnadze said that he could have fired the leadership of the Rescue Corps, but, instead, he had decided to forgive them.

As regards the criminal case itself, it is being investigated by the Prosecutor's Office, and no one will be allowed to interfere with the investigation. In the opinion of Shevardnadze, the handover of weapons by the Rescue Corps would contribute to the establishment of stability in the country. He said that he expects no provocations, because the state is strong enough to thwart any attempt at destabilization.

In his interview, head of state Shevardnadze also said that the Georgian authorities would find it much easier to engage in argument with the opposition if the Russian Federation pursued an unequivocal policy on Abkhazia and severed all ties with the separatists.

Security Council Approves Russia's Mediation Efforts

LD0905101095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 9 May 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, May 9 (Itar-Tass) — The U.N. Security Council began discussions on the U.N. Secretary- general secretariat's report on the situation in Abkhazia. Itar-Tass learned that during consultations held on this issue on Monday, Security Council members approved the mediation efforts made by Russia, as a side lately assisting the U.N.-sponsored peace process. In particular, U.S. permanent representative in the U.N. Madeleine Albright expressed gratitude to Russia for its mediation efforts.

Many orators, in particular, representatives of the United States, Germany and Italy, approved the activization of measures by the CIS peacekeeping forces in the zone of conflict. Chinmaya Gharekhan, special political adviser to the U.N. secretary-general, called this activization a main factor in the stabilization of the situation in the zone of conflict. Many representatives expressed their satisfaction with close cooperation between the CIS peacekeeping forces and the U.N. observer mission in Georgia.

At the same time, in speeches of all the Security Council representatives concern was expressed over a stagnation in the peace process, in particular, by the return of refugees blocked by the Abkhazian side. A number of orators noted that the return of refugees is the key issue, on the successful solution of which depends the progress made in other issues of an acceptable to all political solution to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Estonia

Prime Minister Pays Tribute to War Dead

LD0905101295 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 50th anniversary of the end of the battles of World War II was marked in Estonia today. Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, Defense Minister Andrus Oovel, Arvo Junti, a deputy speaker of the Riigikogu, and representatives of foreign embassies laid wreaths on graves of war victims this morning.

At Tallinn's Siselinna cemetery, the victims of the March bombing were remembered: on 9 March 1944, planes of the Red Army dropped about 2,000 bombs on Tallinn. The air-raid killed 500 people, mostly women and children, and the fires destroyed a large part of Tallinn.

More than 100,000 Estonians fought on the fronts of World War II, two-thirds of them on the German side and one-third on the Russian side. Estonia ended up between the two large powers, neither of which recognized its lawful and indisputable right to self-determination.

At Metsakalmistu cemetery, the 1,000 people buried there, who were murdered in Estonia during the German occupation, were remembered. Up to the early spring of 1943 Estonians were recruited to the German army on a voluntary basis. In 1943 the German authorities announced a general mobilization to the newly-created Estonian Legion and compulsory registration of those liable to labor service. The largest burial site in Tallinn of those who were fighting on the German side is at Maarjamae, where 400 of the 2,000 buried were Estonians. At Pirita, 251 German prisoners of war are buried.

Sinijarv Promises 'All Reforms Will Be Completed'

BR0905090795 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 5 May 95 p 18

[Report by Elisabeth Crona: "New Minister Promises Reforms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pragmatic, experienced, and results- oriented. This is how new Estonian Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv described the Estonian Government during his first visit to Sweden on Thursday [4 May].

Sinijarv himself was industry minister in a previous government, which also was headed by Tiit Vahi, but now he comes direct from London where he has been Estonia's ambassador for over two years.

On Speaking Terms With Russia

The 48-year-old foreign minister was very diplomatic during his press conference in Stockholm. All reforms will be completed. The same foreign policy line will be followed. The most important thing is stability. He even said that Estonia is "on speaking terms" with Russia on the difficult border issue. And with respect to the hottest Baltic debate right now, about Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's veiled threats, Sinijarv merely referred to the Estonian Foreign Ministry's earlier (strong) statement.

"There is nothing to add," he said.

In his talks with Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen Sinijarv discussed, among other things, the visa exemption question, which [Swedish Prime Minister] Ingvar Carlsson raised during his recent visit to Estonia.

"We have not achieved any results yet but are working in good mutual understanding. There are lots of technical complications."

The Estonian passports which have fallen into the hands of the Russian mafia are a problem for Estonian authorities.

But the passports are not a big issue in the talks with Sweden, Sinijarv asserted, adding that they are difficult to forge.

"Our passports, which are printed in the United Kingdom, are very reliable and technically advanced."

He also confirmed that Estonia has had some success lately in the fight against organized crime.

"But you cannot count on swift results."

Background As a Chemist

Riivo Sinijarv has a background as a chemist and started a small chemical business when Gorbachev began to ease the pressure on the former Soviet republics. He became chairman of his own manufacturers' association and eventually industry minister. He has also been a member of parliament and was among the founders of Tiit Vahi's Coalition Party.

Today he wants to see more government support for the "brave people" who dare to start new businesses.

"A new element in the government's policy is to give greater emphasis to the importance of our trading relations," the Estonian foreign minister said with an eye to the Europe agreement with the EU which Estonia hopes to sign on 29 May.

Sinijarv received a gift from the Swedish Government to take home — a used high-speed police boat to patrol the border.

Latvia

Border Dispute Talks With Estonia End

LD0805122295 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Janis Ritenis, minister of state for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, who at the end of last week in Parnu led the Latvian delegation in talks with Estonia on the sea border demarcation, told Latvian radio that the bilateral talks concluded without any significant results. The Estonian delegation did not have appropriate authority from its government to conclude an agreement and adopt a joint declaration. In addition, Estonia strongly adheres to its policy and has not given up the self-declared sea border with Latvia.

It is not yet known when the next round of talks will be held, because the Estonian delegation has to get authority from its government. It is possible that Belgian, Norwegian, or Finnish experts will mediate in the next round of talks. As is known, the Nordic countries have more experience in tackling border problems and disputes. Therefore, participation of Scandinavian experts may direct the talks toward a more constructive path.

VE-Day Rally Supports Former Communist Leader

LD0905104295 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A rally on Victory Square in Riga today in honor of the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II was authorized by the Riga Council and organized by members of the Latvian Anti-Hitler Coalition. Many war veterans gathered at the Victory Monument and deputies from the Equal Rights faction addressed them. Participants in the rally also made speeches which mainly praised the Soviet Union's irreversible victory over fascism. Many participants also waved red flags of the former Soviet Union and placards mainly expressing support for [former Latvian communist leader] Alfreds Rubiks.

Group Claims Responsibility for Blowing Up Synagogue

LD0805140995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has already been reported that at the end of last week [6 May] public attention was directed toward an explosion at the Riga synagogue. A Latvian Government statement called it a provocation aimed at undermining Latvia's international prestige and causing tension in the country.

State President Guntis Ulmanis, returning from a visit to Great Britain tonight [as heard], also expressed regret for this act of vandalism in which one of the most sacred places of gathering of the Latvian Jewish community was damaged.

For its part the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a statement in connection with the explosion, which says that after the explosion an unidentified man telephoned [the police emergency] number 02 and explained that he was the commander of the Rubiks sabotage group and that the Riga synagogue was the first facility to be blown up by the group. The caller demanded that Alfreds Rubiks be freed within a week, otherwise the Monument of Freedom will be blown up next and after that there will be explosions on trains running between Moscow and Riga.

A criminal investigation has been started in connection with the above-mentioned facts and several security measures have been carried out to step up the security of the Jewish synagogue, the Monument of Freedom, and other facilities.

Government Approves Budget Plan for 1996

WS0805150195 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 8 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, May 08, BNS — The Latvian Cabinet approved during last weekend a draft for the 1996 national budget plan, prime minister's Press Secretary Rolands Tjarve told BNS.

The sitting was held Saturday and Sunday in the Ligatne town.

Under the draft plan, tax income will constitute 37 percent of the gross national product in 1996 compared to 36 percent in this year.

The basic budget is expected to earn 438 million lats while the special budgets could collect 395 million. Special budgets are meant for paying part of pensions, social allowances and ensuring health care.

The budget deficit is planned at 43 million lats. This year, the admissible deficit is 40 million lats.

The next step of the budget set up rests with the ministries which will have until July 20 to draft a motivated expenditure plan. The Finance Ministry will assess the projects until Aug. 1 to draft a bill on the national budget by Aug. 15. The bill has to be passed for parliament consideration on Oct. 1.

Bond Market Slowing Down as Budget Deficit Grows

WS0905074295 Riga DIENAS BIZNESS in Latvian 24 Apr 95 p 23

[Report by Normunds Lisovskis: "Crisis on the State Bond Market"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the circumstances of a growing state budget deficit, the sale of the primary means for its financing — state bonds — is constantly dropping.

In February of this year, bonds with a total value of 8.5 million lats [Ls] were issued every week, but in April — only of Ls2.2 million. Commercial banks, which are the only direct dealers on the state bond market, have drastically lowered their demand for bonds. The number of participants in the bond auctions have decreased from five or six banks to one or two banks.

Bonds Were Purchased by Foreign Investors

The first auction of state bonds took place on 16 December 1993, but the full emergence of the market was only noted in the second half of 1994, when bonds with a 91-day term were introduced, which today represent 80 percent of the market. More than six months were also needed for people to gain faith in state bonds, which are regarded all over the world as the most reliable way of saving money. In the course of time, the Bank of Latvia also began to participate in the auctions. With time, a secondary market was created.

At first, the main buyers were the banks themselves, but after some time, when a market was established, the banks assumed the function of brokers and served customers who were willing to buy bonds but did not have access to auctions. The banks usually bought their bonds with the extra funds, which they had been holding in their Bank of Latvia accounts.

According to reports from the banks, the main bond buyers are foreign investors, because interest rates in Latvia (17-25 percent per year), notwithstanding inflation, are much more profitable than in the West (4-10 percent annually). As for local investors, the nominal price of one bond — Ls100,000 apparently seemed too high for them.

Bank Scandals Made the Money Flow Away

Over the course of last year, the holdings of Latvian banks were constantly growing, by approximately Ls40 million every month, and exceeded Ls1 billion in total. In January, growth stopped due to the need to undergo the yearly audit. Greater tension in the banking system was also related to the seeking of possibilities to increase capital. The greatest blow, however, came in February, with the arrest of the directors of "Lainabank," which followed a series of other bank scandals. As a result of this, the holdings of Latvian banks fell by about Ls20 million, i.e. $40 million in two month's time.

Although, speaking in legal terms, the hoped for but unrealized income cannot be regarded as a loss, because theoretically one can calculate that apart from the direct $40-million loss, the Latvian financial system has also lost its regular growth trend, which could represent up to $200 million. The first part of the loss has left Latvia, while the other one — passed it by.

Turnover of Bonds Reduced by 28 Percent

Part of the lost money can be regarded as a loss suffered by the state bond market. This assumption appears to be confirmed by the fact that the total turnover in state bonds has fallen by 28 percent over the last two months — from Ls58 million to Ls42 million. Besides, this process is taking place when the interest rate on state bonds is higher than regular bank deposit rates.

The decline can be explained by either the withdrawal of foreign capital or by the decrease in activities of local banks in this part of market. Banks are probably forced to use their holdings to fulfill other needs. When closing out last year, the banks, most of which are now in the red, were forced to keep considerable funds in reserve, in light of unsecured credits.

Lithuania

President Brazauskas Hails VE-Day Anniversary

LD0905104095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 9 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Monday President Algirdas Brazauskas delivered a speech on the 50th anniversary of the allied victory in World War Two.

In this speech, President Brazauskas noted that Nazi Germany had to erase Lithuania from the world map and incorporate its territory into the Third Reich. A large part of the Lithuanian people had to be deported while the rest would have been Germanized. It is for this reason that we should realize to the full extent the international significance of the victory achieved by the allied forces 50 years ago, President Brazauskas said, adding that due respect should be paid to all those who had fought against fascism, whatever the color of their state was.

Sixty-one state and [words indistinct] world's population were involved in World War Two. Military operations covered the territories of 40 countries. 55 million people died in the Second World War, the damaged incurred by hostilities amounted to $4 trillion.

In Lithuania, the total death count was 250,000, including 200,000 Jews, 25,000 Poles, and between 10,000 to 15,000 Lithuanians. Sixty thousand Lithuanian residents were carried away for forced labor in Germany. With the approach of the Soviet Army in 1944, some 60,000 Lithuanians emigrated to the West. Historians maintain that Lithuania's population was reduced by up to three million during World War Two.

In his speech, delivered at the commemorative meeting at the Lithuanian Opera House, President Brazauskas said the following:

[Begin recording Brazauskas in Lithuanian with superimposed English translation] We still remember the strange feeling experienced at old times during the celebrations of victory over Nazi Germany. We celebrated the victory being well aware of its paramount importance for the development of the world civilization. However, we did not feel being part of this victory, which reminded us of the freedom and independence lost.

On June 14th, 1940, the Red Army troops entered Lithuania coarsely violating the norms of international law, the principles of international relations between civilized states, and the territorial integrity of the Lithuanian state.

Our country fell victim to Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union and ceased to exist. The pre-war leaders of Lithuania were well aware of the threat to the state independence posed by a world war. They made every effort to maneuver the country into neutrality. Unfortunately, Lithuania was just a small gear in a big game. There were also internal causes for weakness of the state. The ruling authoritarian regime was not capable of mobilizing the nation for an armed defense of independence.

The Soviet occupiers forced young men into the so-called People's Army through threats and reprisals, thus undermining Lithuania's defense potential in the face of the approaching war. [end recording]

Some 20,000 Lithuanian residents fled to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1941. Later on, these people formed the nucleus of the Red Army's 16th Lithuanian Infantry Division. President Brazauskas said that he does support the idea, expressed by some people, that these soldiers fought the [word indistinct] battle which at that time was detrimental to Lithuania and [words indistinct] the country's occupation by the Soviet Union. According to Algirdas Brazauskas, the servicemen of the 16th Division paid an honorable contribution to the worldwide struggle against fascism.

In Lithuania, meanwhile, the national anti-Nazi underground movement was based on the tactics of passive resistance. Lithuania was the only Nazi-occupied country where the Germans failed to create a national SS [Schutzstaffel] unit. The fact that only 286 residents volunteered to serve in the Lithuanian SS legion testified to the real feelings of the people toward the Nazi regime.

[Begin Brazauskas recording in Lithuanian with superimposed English translation] The nature of Lithuania's resistance remained unaffected by the fact that a number of Lithuanian residents — often against their will and due to the force of circumstances — found themselves in the civil service of the Third Reich or the Lithuanian Military Police. Yes, it is true that during the war police battalions, referred to as self-defense battalions, were formed of Lithuanians. And it is also true that a number of them were in the Nazi-designed genocide, mass murder of Jews, the guarding of ghettos and execution sites, and the convoy of people to the place of their execution. Two battalions from Lithuania were even sent to guard the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland. But these people did not represent the Lithuanian nation as a whole. [end recording]

At the end of his speech, Algirdas Brazauskas voiced his approval of the initiative to create a charity fund to raise money for the erection of the monument of remembrance to all those who died during World War Two. It is not important what the colors of their shoulder-straps were, Mr Brazauskas said. All of them found peace in death, and their death should reconcile to live.

These were the highlights of President Algirdas Brazauskas' speech, delivered on the 50th anniversary of the allied victory in World War Two.

Russian Duma Deputies Visit To Examine Ethnic Rights

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[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius, 8 May — A group of Russian State Duma deputies, members of the committee for Commonwealth affairs and links with compatriots, led by Yuriy Voyevoda met Juozas Bernatonis, deputy speaker of the Lithuanian Seimas, in Vilnius today.

The head of the group of Russian MPs told ITAR-TASS that the purpose of this working visit is to examine the situation of the Russian-speaking population in Lithuania and the laws on citizenship, to exchange legislative experience in the sphere of human rights and ethnic minorities, and to establish cooperation with the Lithuanian Seimas. The Duma deputies will take part in the events devoted to the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism, will honor the memory of their compatriots fallen in Lithuania, and pay their respects to the surviving war veterans.

Also today, the Russian State Duma deputies met members of the Lithuanian Seimas committee for civil rights and ethnic minorities, which had invited the Russian MPs to Lithuania.

At the meeting the sides discussed the situation of the Russian-speaking minority in Lithuania and that of Lithuanian in Russia. They stated that not everything was smooth in that area; there were problems requiring legislative decisions. However, the sides did not find any blatant violations of the rights of ethnic minorities.

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